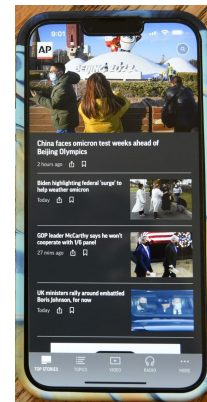


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Connecting

Oct. 12, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Oct. 12, 2022,

There's a California theme in today's Connecting.

Our colleague **Linda Deutsch** brings us an account of a reunion of The California Gang last Friday in San Francisco. The impetus and groundwork for the gathering came from our colleague **Chuck McFadden**.

Most of the participants, she noted, were (and are) in their 70s or early 80s and the stories were aplenty. "The last time we were together was when a birthday party for **Jim Lagier** was held in Walnut Creek shortly before he passed (in 2015)," Linda said.

Hope you will consider organizing a reunion in your neck of the woods. After all, none of us is getting any younger.

And, we bring you more of your stories on working in the Annex of the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner – with a touch of nostalgia for the working space.

On the medical front, **Ye Olde Connecting Editor** got some good news from X-rays Tuesday that his broken leg (injured when qualifying for the US Open!!!) is healing nicely and he is now able to put full weight on it, still with a walker for a while for stability. Now you know the real reason why Roger Federer decided to retire...

And in The Final Word, he shares – on this 25th anniversary of the death of John Denver – his only meeting with the talented singer that involved wife Linda's Grandma Mary. It'll make you go out and order a slice of chocolate pie!

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

Paul

Remembering the years when we gave our talents, our smarts, our humor and our dedication to the AP



The California Gang. Back row, from left: Chuck McFadden, Bob Egelko (behind him), Steve Montiel, Mike Goodkind, Dennis Georgatos, Dan Berger, Warren Lerude, Bill Saul, Cara Roberts Clarke. Front row, from left: Edie Lederer, Barbara McFadden, Linda Deutsch, Jeannine Yeomans, Janet Lerude, Norm Clarke. (Mike Rubin had to leave before photo was taken.)

[Linda Deutsch](#) - The first message came in late August. Chuck McFadden, an AP vet, was suggesting an AP “Old Timers” gathering in the San Francisco Bay Area. More than 20 folks who worked in AP California were included in the message and before long, responses were flooding Chuck’s E-mail. Yes, lots of us were interested depending on the date and location. After many messages, we settled on San Francisco on October

7. More retirees lived in Northern California than anywhere else. Chuck chose the restaurant, Delancey Street, at the Embarcadero. Some of us had to make plane and hotel reservations.

And so it came to pass that at 12 noon that Friday, a group of important news veterans gathered to remember the years when we gave our talent, our smarts, our humor and our dedication to the world's largest news-gathering agency. We had lunch and talked with our table mates. We also toasted with bottles of wine brought by Dan Berger who became one of the nation's top wine columnists after his AP days.

And then, one by one, we spoke of our lives then and now. The stories flowed easily. Here are a few of them.

I was called on to speak first and I said that I had always thought of the AP as a special family, bound by our dedication to journalism and to the AP which made us proud to be in the business. At AP we found a world of friends. I told of overseas trips made by me and my colleague Edie Lederer where we always found a special welcome and lunch or dinner hosted by those in the local bureaus. From Hong Kong to Indonesia, India, Israel and many others, there was never a country where we didn't find an AP "relative." Others spoke of taking dictation from me on big trials, the kind of essential cooperation that made the AP great.

Jeannine Yeomans told of her youthful dreams of becoming an AP reporter. When her dream came true, she was told the only assignment available was in Carson City, Nev., a state capital but a true backwater. She took it and ultimately moved to San Francisco where she reported major stories and then switched to TV where she became a beloved local broadcaster for 20 years. She made news when at 47 she was deemed by her editor to be "an old broad" and was fired. She brought a landmark discrimination lawsuit and won a significant settlement.

Edie Lederer, who came the furthest from New York, is the longest working employee in AP history (56 years) and continues to work as chief correspondent at the United Nations. She recalled the evolution of her AP career from the San Francisco bureau to become a much-heralded war correspondent. She was AP's first permanent female staffer in Vietnam and went on to top positions in Hong Kong, Africa, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, England and more. She headed AP's middle east bureau in the Gulf War and covered "the troubles" in Northern Ireland.

Some told legendary stories such as Dan Berger's stunning decision to cut the wire on a pay phone rather than let a UPI competitor grab it during a major press conference during the Patty Hearst kidnaping story. On his key chain, Dan still carries the tiny pocketknife that did the deed.

Barbara McFadden, Chuck's wife, told of pitching in when her husband, then a Sacramento newsman, had to rush off to a big breaking story on a Sunday (Sept. 24, 1972) and asked her to call members of the staff in the area to assist him. A Korean War-vintage F-86 fighter jet had failed on takeoff and crashed into a Farrell's ice cream parlor, killing 22 men, women and children. She thought she wouldn't reach anyone, but she got them all and a large crew responded to get AP a major scoop. The next day she received flowers and a big thank you from (AP General Manager) Wes Gallagher.

Steve Monteil remembered his stints with AP in San Francisco and LA and his work helping the great Bob Maynard setting up the minority program in journalism at UC Berkeley. He also taught journalism in central California. Dennis Georgatos echoed the delight of many to see old colleagues and recalled his many years in the San Diego bureau.

And last but not least, Warren Lerude, the only Pulitzer Prize winner among us (1977, Editorial Writing), came from Reno with his wife Janet. He started with AP in his hometown of Reno, moved on to become bureau chief in Las Vegas and eventually became a journalism professor emeritus at the University of Nevada at Reno. I worked with him on a journalism and the law program at the Judicial College in Reno.

Norm Clarke, who came from Las Vegas with his wife Cara, recalled covering the MGM Fire and other disasters as a reporter after he had spent years as a sports writer. He went on to be "Mr. Las Vegas," the celebrity columnist for the Review-Journal.

The only other working newspaper person at the lunch was Bob Egelko, former AP federal courthouse reporter who was later hired by the San Francisco Examiner and continues writing there. Mike Goodkind recalled pranks played on editors and others remembered keeping each other amused when not filing radio splits.

There were tons more stories. I apologize to those I missed. I didn't take notes. Please check the cutline on the picture for all those who attended.

Mike Rubin, who left early to pick up his daughter, said he felt he had just attended a very special cousins' get-together.

I have a feeling there will be more of these.

73s to all.

The Herald Examiner Annex Rite of Passage

[Russ Kaurloto](#) - Continuing the reflection on the HerEx Annex building, having worked in that building from 1979 until COB Andy Lippman and I moved the bureau to 221 S. Figueroa St. in 1991, I have many fond memories.

I was fortunate to cut my teeth as a technician through to Chief of Communications while at the Annex and while all of us focused on the New York headquarters or the Washington Broadcast bureau, I saw the Annex building / LA Bureau as a rite of passage. So many of the best the AP had to offer passed through that building during my time. Andy Lippman, Peggy Walsh, Dan Day, Pat Arnold, John Brewer, Marty Thompson, Ben Brown, John Kenney and the list goes on.

If that building could tell stories, it would have been reviewed by some of the best COB's, who cut their teeth while at 1111 S. Hill St, and the stories would have most likely been edited by Steve Loeper. If it was a Hollywood story, Bob Thomas; Sports, John Nadel (Noodle) or Ken Peters; Photos, Nick Ut, Herb Hemming, Reed Saxon, Doug Pizac and of course, the one and only Spencer Jones.

Who would think that our receptionist, Laurence Loewy, would turn out to be Raymond Loewy's daughter. Someone who would fly her private Lear jet to France when she felt the urge. All of this at the Annex building, a desolate location on the edge of central Los Angeles. And yes, I recall the shooting in the Security Pacific Bank parking lot and getting chewed out by the bank manager as well for parking in their lot during the day. And the Whittier quake, where I watched our mainframe computer dance across the floor.

Anyone who spent time in the Annex knew not to stand in the center of the elevator or oil was sure to drip on your head or clothes. That elevator gave a whole new meaning to elevator pitch since it seemingly took a half an hour to go two floors which was labeled as three.

As technicians we spent a lot of time in the tunnel that went underground across Hill St. between the main HerEx building and the Annex, we had cables that connected the AP satellite at the Annex building over to the Herald's newsroom. The cables ran along the tunnel wall adjacent to the railroad tracks they used to move the printing paper from the Annex to the presses located at the newspaper. A dark and dungeons place. And then there was Corky's bar and restaurant across from the Herald. An Asian family-owned business where most of the inside news was shared between the AP and Herald reporters.

The location of the Annex was on a strange corner where you could view the nostalgic Mayan theatre that was converted into a porn movie theatre and of all things a church right next door. How anyone was convinced to work in the Annex is beyond me but there was never a lack of talent.

Fond memories indeed, but I believe, had it not been for the dilapidated Annex in its worn beige and grey colored walls and narrow dark hallways, full of old character, the rite of passage would have been a heck of a lot different.

-0-

[Lee Siegel](#) - One of my strongest memories of the old bureau on Hill Street was how my Columbia School of Journalism classmate Rita Beamish went on the warpath to ban smoking in the newsroom and eventually succeeded. Smokers (including me at the time) were banished to a smoking lounge room far down the hall. And one day we had to evacuate the bureau because someone had dumped an ashtray into a trash can and started a small fire. I also remember that when we moved the bureau from Hill Street to the nice new location on Figueroa, as we were moving some of the furniture, we discovered huge collections of cigarette butts and ashes that had been deposited furtively around the entire lower lip of one smoker's Steelcase desk. That person, who apparently didn't like ashtrays, shall remain unnamed.

Adolphe & Marguerite Hurricane Update (We have wifi and TV)!

[Adolphe Bernotas](#) - And on the 13th day of darkness, Florida Light and Power gave us the magic of electricity.

The fridge (to cool the wine, beer and yogurt); the ACs are running (we can sleep at night, I with my cpap machine); we have lights in the bathrooms; we can charge the plugin car! We can take warm showers! We have coffee in the morning! We have laundered clothes! No more waiting at San Pedro Catholic Church in long lines of cars burning scarcely available gasoline for ice distributed by the National Guard.

And miracle of miracles, today brought us Wi-Fi and TV!

Now we're focused on chasing the insurance company (which has given us names, phone numbers and emails of at least three agents supposed to deal with our claim; yet none has showed up to survey the damage to our house in North Port, Hurricane Ian's direct target); we also are chasing contractors for a new roof, to rebuild the carport and make other repairs.

We thank all who have sent us heartfelt messages of support, concern and good will.

Bless us all, Tiny Tim!

Connecting sky shots



[Mike Holmes](#) - A different kind of high-rise, near Gothenburg, Neb.



[Paul Davenport](#) - Fall foliage has been in full swing in the southern Rockies for several weeks. This Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad train passes aspen stands east of Osier, Colorado, on Sept. 25, 2022. Connecting member Paul Davenport was riding the train to scout the right-of-way in southern Colorado and northern New Mexico for volunteer crews that maintain historic signs and trim trackside growth.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday

[Craig Whitney](#)

Welcome to Connecting

[Bobby Calvin](#)

Stories of interest

Prosecutors seek prison for rioter's attack on AP journalist (AP)

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN

Federal prosecutors on Sunday recommended a prison sentence of approximately four years for a Pennsylvania man who pleaded guilty to assaulting an Associated Press photographer and using a stun gun against police officers during a mob's attack on the U.S. Capitol.

U.S. District Judge Randolph Moss is scheduled to sentence Alan Byerly on Oct. 21 for his attack on AP photographer John Minchillo and police during the Jan. 6, 2021, riot in Washington.

Sentencing guidelines recommend a prison term ranging from 37 to 46 months. Prosecutors are seeking a sentence of at least 46 months of imprisonment, followed by three years of supervised release. Byerly's attorney has until Friday to submit a sentencing recommendation.

The judge isn't bound by any of the sentencing recommendations.

Byerly was arrested in July 2021 and pleaded guilty a year later to assault charges.

Read more [here](#).

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At the Athletic and New York Times, a marriage with promise and tension (Washington Post)



Washington Post illustration

By Ben Strauss

Not long after the New York Times bought the Athletic this year, the founders of the popular sports website held an all-staff call.

Most Athletic staffers were pleased with the purchase. A six-year-old start-up, the Athletic had spent a year courting a buyer, discussing a merger with Axios and fielding

interest from gambling companies and private equity firms. But the Times ponied up \$550 million, and now the Athletic was part of America's most storied journalism institution.

Still, there was an important matter the Athletic's founders, Alex Mather and Adam Hansmann, needed to clarify with their newsroom of 400-plus journalists. Despite the fact that the Times now owned the Athletic, the founders reminded their employees, they were not to start telling sources that they worked for the Times.

Times sportswriters had worried to higher-ups that Athletic reporters, potential competitors, had been introducing themselves as Times journalists. One Athletic staffer, who had snapped a photo in front of the Times building in Manhattan and called it his new office, was asked to take it down.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Thompson.

-0-

Nonprofit journalism jobs continue growth in compensation, study finds (Institute for Nonprofit News)

Compensation for nonprofit journalism jobs has increased over the past two years, according to a study released today by the Institute for Nonprofit News. The INN Member Compensation Study shows that salaries for editorial positions have grown significantly, with the average reporter salary jumping to \$82,943 from \$58,858 in 2020, when the first study was conducted. Benefits have markedly increased, too, with 86% of news organizations offering paid time off, compared with just over half in 2020.

"Put simply, the financial benefits of working for a nonprofit news organization in the INN Network have gotten better over time, and they compare favorably with advertised compensation packages at comparably sized legacy media outlets," said Jonathan Kealing, INN's chief network officer.

The one area where salaries remained steady or even dipped slightly was for leadership roles, suggesting that organizations are choosing to prioritize investment in reporting.

The size of the INN Network has grown rapidly over the past few years, to more than 400 independent news organizations in 49 U.S. states, the District of Columbia and parts of the Caribbean and Canada.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

24 lessons for the 2022 elections (American Press Institute)

Midterm elections are coming up, and it's vital for newsrooms to prepare. During the 2022 ONA conference in Los Angeles, API's CEO and Executive Director Michael D. Bolden, Hearken's CEO Jennifer Brandel and Lenfest Institute for Journalism's Head of National Programs Amy Kovac-Ashley shared best practices, case studies and resources to help journalism organizations engage voters and provide resources needed for their audiences to cast informed ballots in the upcoming elections. Here are the 24 practical and actionable lessons for the 2022 elections they shared. You can check out the full deck [here](#) and a live Twitter thread [here](#).

Before Elections

1: EXPLAIN WHAT YOU WILL AND WON'T COVER, HOW & WHY

It's important to provide a clear mission statement that you can continue referring to in your election coverage to promote trust with your audiences. A great mission statement includes the reasons you do what you do, information on reporters who are covering elections with ways to reach them, the way you conduct your work, and information on where to find and stay up to date with your election coverage. You can check out this great statement from WyoFile and find even more useful examples from Trusting News.

Don't stop after you write your mission statement, make sure you continue communicating your process to your audience. See how Richland Source used a sidebar to share their plan to interview major candidates. They explained their goal to go beyond "horse race" stories and complicate the narrative, using questions developed by Amanda Ripley.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

Remembering John Denver and the grandma who made a chocolate pie that knocked his socks off

JUN 17 1978

Good cook keeps singer's secret

By PAUL STEVENS
Associated Press Writer

WICHITA — Mary Saul, meet John Denver — famous singer and television star who aspires to be a jet pilot. John Denver, meet Mary Saul — a great-grandmother and seasoned cook who can keep a secret.

So began a week-long association between the boyish-looking personality known to millions and the 78-year-old Wichita woman he hired to keep house and fix him home-cooked evening meals.

"She spoiled me rotten," Denver said. "She makes a chocolate pie that would knock your socks off."

The admiration was mutual. Said Mrs. Saul: "I think he's just a lovely, down-to-earth person. I love to cook and I love for people to enjoy the things I cook."

The 34-year-old Denver, who recently completed a concert tour of 51 cities that drew nearly a million fans, was in Wichita to learn to fly the business jet he owns to hopscotch across the country.

He was among about 15 students in a ground school class for jet aircraft that ended Friday after eight days of concentrated book work and flight simulator training.

Because of the workload and study involved, he wanted as few persons as possible to know he was staying in the city.

"People are very interested in me. I'm very recognizable, so it's difficult to maintain privacy," Denver said in an exclusive interview at the private residence where he stayed.

As opposed to going to a motel where I thought things really would get crazy, working it this way let me keep a low profile. This is a real blessing — as a home and getting home-cooked food."

Gates Learjet Corp. officials, who sold Denver a jet three years ago, located the home where he and his father, Dutch Deutchendorf, stayed. And when they went searching for a cook, the name of Mary Saul popped up.

Mrs. Saul, a widow who works part-time cooking at a local motel, was asked by her boss, Mavor Stroman, wife of a Learjet employee, whether she would like the job.

"She was surprised," Mrs. Stroman said. "I think she was absolutely scared to death. But they love her. She told Dutch when she met him, 'I'll be your grandmother.'"

In 15 years of operating Mexican food restaurants in the city, Mrs. Saul said she never encountered "somebody like that." But she kept mum as to her employer's identity, except to tell several relatives whom Denver invited to the house one evening.

Was she apprehensive? "I thought I might be but after their first meal (breaded veal cutlet), I changed my mind," she replied. "They like to eat and they appreciate good food. They insisted I sit down and join them for meals."

Her dinners, the only meals she cooked for Denver, were strictly "down home" — tacos with her own special hot sauce, baked chicken, fried fish and pork chops.

Denver employs private pilots to help fly the Learjet with his father, the chief pilot, who is a retired Air Force officer who holds a world speed record for a flight in a B-58 bomber 17 years ago.

"I would like to learn how to fly the airplanes and I would like to have my dad teach me," Denver said.

His father, who taught him to fly a single-engine plane three years ago, helped interpret the engineering and electrical information he must digest to fly the jet, Denver said, moaning, "In high school, the thing I was least interested in was electricity."

"I just love to fly," he said. "When I was a kid, I wanted to do just what my dad did. I wanted to go to the Air Force Academy and be a pilot, but my vision wasn't good enough for the Air Force."

He earned a private pilot's license with a single-engine rating about a year ago. After successful completion of jet ground school training, Denver must complete flight training and pass an inspector's flight exam before he can take control of his 560 mph jet.

Denver's singing career — one of his first hits was "Leaving on a Jet Plane" — has resulted in a number of gold records and numerous television appearances. He stars with comedian George Burns in the movie, "Oh, God."

Flying is a way to keep his life from becoming too narrow, he believes.

"All my life I wanted to be a singer," he said. "People who achieve success in one area sometimes tend to get narrow in their lives. Flying is one thing that has totally expanded my life."

Despite nightly handball sessions while staying in Wichita, Denver says he will return to his family in Aspen, Colo., carrying five extra pounds.

"She's spoiled us here," said Denver, who returned the courtesy Thursday night by taking Mrs. Saul out to a local restaurant for a champagne and steak dinner. "We wine and dined her."

and kept quiet about it, too. Said Denver, "She spoiled me rotten. She makes a chocolate pie that would knock your socks off." (AP Laserphoto)

Singer John Denver wanted two things when he stayed in Wichita eight days to learn to fly his jet: privacy and good home-cooked meals. Mary Saul, a 78-year-old great-grandmother, handled the cooking



Paul Stevens — Twenty-five years ago today, entertainer John Denver died when the plane he was flying plunged into the waters off the California coast. He was 53 years old. This past Sunday, CBS Sunday Morning provided [this profile](#). Here is a more personal take on my one and only meeting with this delightful man.

I wrote this story when AP's Wichita correspondent that was the best-used I ever produced. When my wife Linda's 78-year-old grandmother Mary Saul was asked to cook for Denver, then 34, in the summer of 1978, she was sworn to secrecy because Denver wanted his stay in Wichita to be kept private. He was in town to train on his Learjet (Wichita was home to the aircraft company). Grandma Mary called Linda and me to let us know privately, and I asked her to see if Denver would agree to an AP interview if we did not publish the story until the day he left Wichita. He agreed, and we met at Grandmother Saul's place for the interview. He was cordial, delightful and clearly infatuated with her.

The story and photo (unautographed) above moved on the AP wires, and we got clippings from all over the world. When Denver returned to Wichita a year later for a concert, he sent "Grandma Mary" front-row tickets and pointed her out during the concert. Grandma Mary died in 1995 at the age of 94 and John Denver died two years later.

She is no doubt making John her chocolate pies in Heaven.

Today in History – Oct. 12, 2022



Today is Wednesday, Oct. 12, the 285th day of 2022. There are 80 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 12, 1976, it was announced in China that Hua Guofeng had been named to succeed the late Mao Zedong as chairman of the Communist Party; it was also announced that Mao's widow and three others, known as the "Gang of Four," had been arrested.

On this date:

In 1492 (according to the Old Style calendar), Christopher Columbus' expedition arrived in the present-day Bahamas.

In 1792, the first recorded U.S. celebration of Columbus Day was held to mark the tricentennial of Christopher Columbus' landing.

In 1870, General Robert E. Lee died in Lexington, Virginia, at age 63.

In 1933, bank robber John Dillinger escaped from a jail in Allen County, Ohio, with the help of his gang, who killed the sheriff, Jess Sarber.

In 1971, the rock opera "Jesus Christ Superstar" opened at the Mark Hellinger Theatre on Broadway.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon nominated House minority leader Gerald R. Ford of Michigan to succeed Spiro T. Agnew as vice president.

In 1984, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher escaped an attempt on her life when an Irish Republican Army bomb exploded at a hotel in Brighton, England, killing five people.

In 1986, the superpower meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland, ended in stalemate, with President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev unable to agree on arms control or a date for a full-fledged summit in the United States.

In 2000, 17 sailors were killed in a suicide bomb attack on the destroyer USS Cole in Yemen.

In 2002, bombs blamed on al-Qaida-linked militants destroyed a nightclub on the Indonesian island of Bali, killing 202 people, including 88 Australians and seven Americans.

In 2007, former Vice President Al Gore and the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change won the Nobel Peace Prize for sounding the alarm over global warming.

In 2011, a Nigerian al-Qaida operative pleaded guilty to trying to bring down a jetliner with a bomb in his underwear; Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab (OO'-mahr fah-ROOK' ahb-DOOL'-moo-TAH'-lahb) defiantly told a federal judge in Detroit that he had acted in retaliation for the killing of Muslims worldwide.

Ten years ago: Thousands of supporters and opponents of Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi clashed in Cairo's Tahrir Square in the first such violence since Morsi took office more than three months earlier. The European Union won the Nobel Peace Prize for fostering peace on a continent long ravaged by war.

Five years ago: The Trump administration said it would "immediately" halt payments to insurers under the Obama-era health care law. President Donald Trump lashed out at hurricane-devastated Puerto Rico, saying the federal government can't keep sending help "forever" and suggesting that the U.S. territory was to blame for its financial struggles.

One year ago: The New Jersey Nets said Kyrie Irving could not play or practice with them until he could be a full participant; New York City required professional athletes to be vaccinated against COVID-19 in order to play or practice in public venues. (Irving would be allowed to rejoin the team for out-of-town games in January 2022, and for home games two months later.) The head of the Chicago police officers union called on its members to defy the city's requirement to report their COVID-19 vaccination status or be placed on unpaid leave. The Boeing Co. told employees they must be vaccinated against COVID-19 or possibly be fired. Florida issued its first fine to a county that it said had violated a new state law banning coronavirus vaccine mandates; Leon County was fined \$3.5 million.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Jake Garn, R-Utah, is 90. Singer Sam Moore (formerly of Sam and Dave) is 87. Broadcast journalist Chris Wallace is 75. Actor-singer Susan Anton is 72. Pop/rock singer/songwriter Jane Siberry is 67. Actor Hiroyuki Sanada is 62. Actor Carlos Bernard is 60. Jazz musician Chris Botti (BOH'-tee) is 60. R&B singer Claude McKnight (Take 6) is 60. Rock singer Bob Schneider is 57. Actor Hugh Jackman is 54. Actor Adam Rich is 54. R&B singer Garfield Bright (Shai) is 53. Country musician Martie Maguire (Courtyard Hounds, The Chicks) is 53. Actor Kirk Cameron is 52. Olympic gold medal skier Bode Miller is 45. Rock singer Jordan Pundik (New Found

Glory) is 43. Actor Brian J. Smith is 41. Actor Tyler Blackburn is 36. Actor Marcus T. Paulk is 36. Actor Ito Aghayere is 35. Actor Josh Hutcherson is 30.

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.

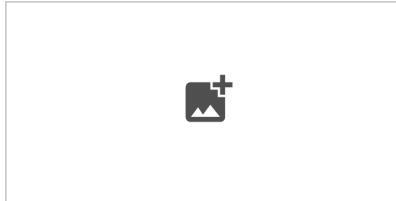


Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

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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