

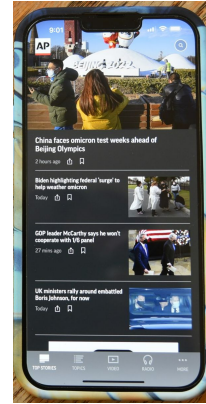
[View as Webpage](#)



# Connecting

Jan. 27, 2023

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)

[Top AP Photos](#)

[AP Merchandise](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)

[AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)

[AP Books](#)

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Jan. 27, 2023,

Thursday's lead Connecting story by **Peter Arnett** on his collaboration with our late colleague **Jane See White** on a 1970s New York murder case stirred some great memories among our readers.

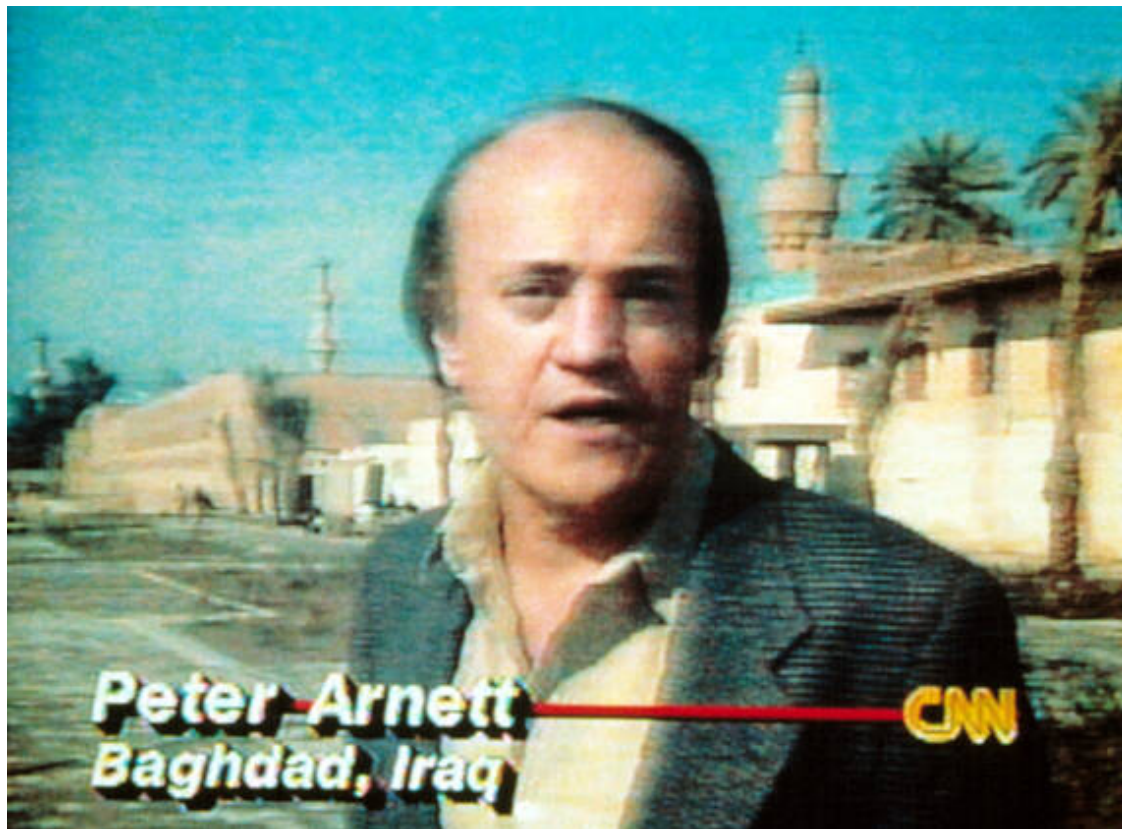
Colleague **Susan Clark** said that reading his story Thursday morning "kept me sitting in my car and not getting out. It was exciting at the time but never read about it as I was on maternity leave with my 2 sons and busy. But it should be a Netflix documentary."

We begin with the memory of their colleague **Tim Harper** – who told how Jane could keep a secret.

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

Paul

## Jane See White: A reporter who could keep a secret



Tim Harper - Thanks to Peter Arnett for the memories of his work with Jane See White on that juicy late 1970s New York murder case. She was a really good reporter and an even better friend. Peter mentions that after that story, he was “about to move on” from AP. I have a story about that.

In 1980, when I joined that six-member national writer team at 50 Rock, Peter was by far the senior, most accomplished of us. With his Vietnam experience, other international reporting exploits and many reporting awards, including a Pulitzer, he was a bona fide rock star in journalism. I was assigned to the desk abutting his on the fourth floor, just off the general desk. We faced each other, so close we could reach across and answer each other’s phones.

It soon became clear that there might be something to the weeks of rumors that Peter was looking for other opportunities. I mentioned this to Jane, who asked if I had a clue. I had no clue. Peter was very discreet.

A day or so later, on a casual stroll past our desks, JSW cast a casual eye on a notepad on his desk.

After work that day, over a beer, Jane told me she had dialed a number scrawled on the notepad. And?

“They answered, hello, CNN,” she said.

This would electrify news in our industry. One of the biggest names in print journalism might be joining Ted Turner’s audacious cable startup with the goal, then seemingly a pipe dream, of a 24-hour cable news network.

Hiring Peter would mean more credibility for Chicken Noodle News, as the skeptics called it. But nobody knew it yet.

The next day Jane took another casual stroll past our desks.

“So,” she murmured, so only Peter and I could hear. “It’s going to be CNN, is it?”

His normally sunny Kiwi demeanor was instantly replaced by stunned disbelief. How did Jane find out?

Shushing her and pulling us aside, Peter conceded that he never should have expected to keep a secret like that from a reporter like Jane. He confirmed that he was going to CNN, but said the deal had not been finalized and asked us not to tell anyone, especially anyone at AP.

Jane promised it would be his news to break.

A few weeks later, after Peter made the announcement and assured Lou Boccardi that his mind was made up. The AP threw a helluva going-away party. I remember one particular gift from the seventh floor that seemed to really move the guest of honor. It was a set of gold cuff links.

One was inscribed “PA.” The other “AP.”

-0-

**Marty Merzer** - Regarding my friend Peter’s recollections of Jane See White and the piece they delivered, it is worth taking note of the story’s terse, declarative sentences. Also note the absence of first-person intrusions, so popular now at the New York Times and elsewhere. Also, the Breslinesque Noo Yawk “voice” of the piece, which conveys the story’s environment. If more news people wrote like that these days - entertaining as well as informing - legacy news operations wouldn’t be perishing by the dozens (or at least so rapidly).

## Susan Linnee – and a change in the relief system

**Kent Prince** - Speaking of temps, Susan Linnee is no longer with us to tell her story, but it should be included because she’s the reason the whole system changed. Since I’m writing this, I’ll give her the credit. If she were writing, she’d probably blame me.

She came to New Orleans AP from Buenos Aires, where she had worked part-time in 1974 for COB Mort Rosenblum and news editor Hank Ackerman, at the same time as she was an assistant to NBC’s Pulitzer-decorated Latin America correspondent Tom Streithorst.

We had three relief jobs — three months for legislature in Baton Rouge, three months for vacation in New Orleans, and — by clever sharing — three months in Jackson for

Mississippi legislature. The contract required separating the stints — at least a month apart, as I recall — but that was about the only unique restriction.

Susan loved them all. She was knee-deep in covering Mississippi's civil rights. In Baton Rouge, politics was a blood sport, and she was near Cajun country. And New Orleans had its own charms, not the least of which was a job between AP tours, waiting tables at Eddie's restaurant, a legendary Creole eatery run by Dean Baquet's family. Yes, that Dean Baquet who later became editor of the NY Times.

She said she loved it. And we loved having the experienced help. She kept signing up, going back, doing it again and again. We asked, but she hung onto the rotation. Then one day, after no telling how many of these spasms, she asked me why she hadn't accrued any vacation time. Frankly, I'd never thought about it. Just raising the question was enough. The rules changed almost overnight, and new safeguards limited temps to nine months. After that, the job turned permanent. Success messed up her rotation, of course, but she wrote later that it was OK being COB in Madrid and Nairobi. Her peripatetic assignments elevated her to the elite group of journalists who worked for AP on four continents, South America, North America, Europe and Africa.

## Saving a family

[Patrick Casey](#) - A stranger and I helped a family escape a house fire while I was headed home after an evening desk shift in Oklahoma City in the late '80s. I first noticed the fiery orange glow and the smell of smoke from a couple of blocks away and realized that a house was burning. The back of the building was partially engulfed when I drove up and you could see children's bikes scattered in the yard. I ran to the front door and started pounding as a neighbor scurried over to help. Nobody answered, so we dashed to the side of the house and began yelling and beating on the windows. A woman jumped out of bed, shrieked and raced through the house. She woke her husband and kids and they all came flying out the front door. The neighbor had already called 911 and several fire trucks pulled up moments later. That was my cue to go.

## AP sighting in streaming space



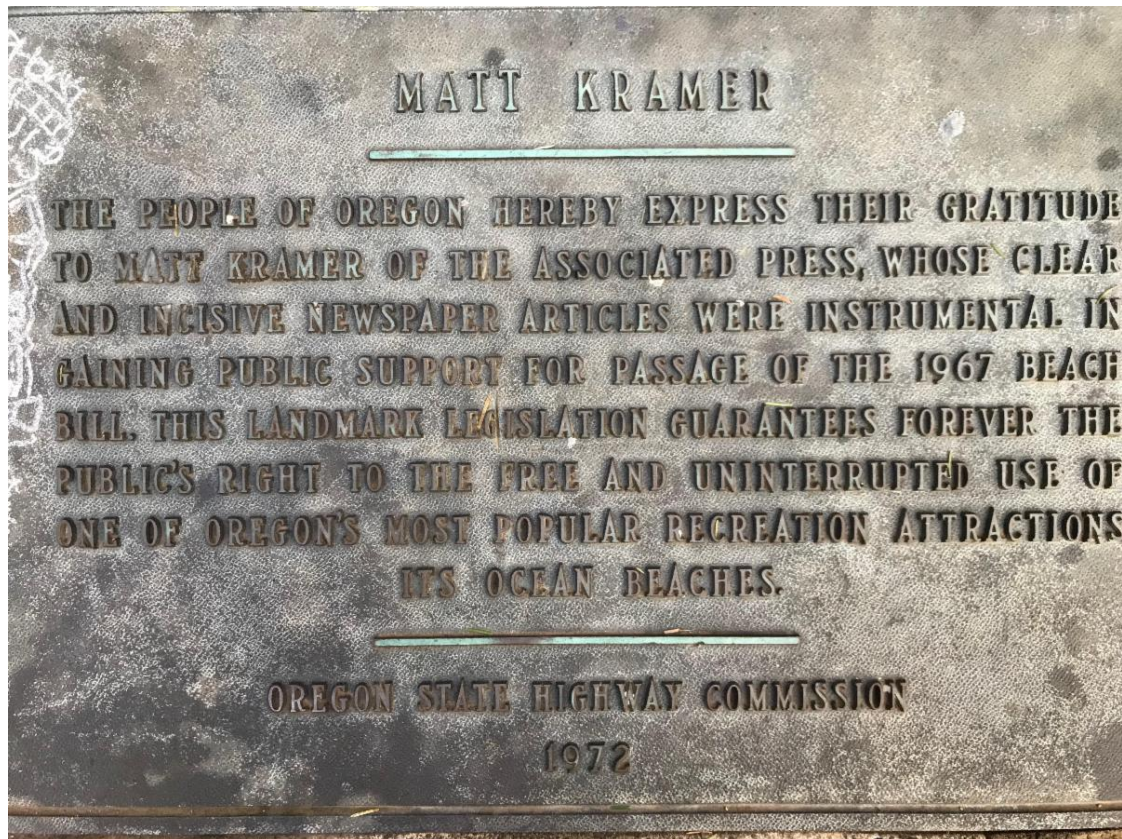


**Steve Loeper** – Here's an AP Sighting in the streaming space, from the HBO Max series, "Minx." I just love the "AP reporter's" ill-fitting suit.

## Matt Kramer and Oregon's Open Beaches



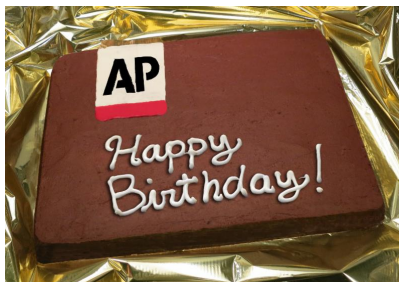




[Bryan Brumley](#) - In a majestic Sitka Fir Forest on Cape Falcon we found an AP reference perched on a cliff above pounding Pacific surf. It reads:

“The people of Oregon hereby express their gratitude to Matt Kramer of the Associated Press, whose clear and incisive newspaper articles were instrumental in gaining public support for passing of the 1967 Beach Bill.”

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



*On Saturday to...*

[Christopher Bacey](#)

[Robert Kimball](#)

## Vahe Gregorian

### Stories of interest

*Fox News' Benjamin Hall urges viewers to 'never give up' in emotional return to live TV* (Fox News)



By BRIAN FLOOD

Fox News foreign correspondent Benjamin Hall urged "Fox & Friends" viewers to "never give up," as he made an emotional return to live television on Thursday following the horrific attack that left him severely injured while covering Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"I think that when you've gone through something like I've gone through, the highs, the lows, you have to have a target, you have to get something to fight for. And this is it, trying to get back, trying to speak to you, trying to be on air and trying to tell people the stories, so perhaps it can help them," Hall said in his first TV appearance since the March 2022 attack.

"I've got one leg, I've got no feet, I see through one eye, one workable hand. I was burned all over, and I feel strong, I feel more confident than I ever have," Hall continued.

"I think that you learn a lot going through things like this, and I was surrounded by so many wonderful people – that's why I'm here today, and I look forward to everything that comes ahead."

Read more [here](#).

-0-

## ***What Happened to the Washington Post?*** (The New Yorker)

By Clare Malone

At a December town hall at the offices of the Washington Post, just a few blocks from the White House, the paper's publisher and C.E.O., Fred Ryan, announced that a round of layoffs would be coming early in the new year. The news came at the end of a meeting featuring what the Post's media critic called "upbeat presentations on bold initiatives," such as a revamped climate desk. The mood among the assembled journalists, however, was hardly upbeat. Two weeks earlier, the paper had announced the closure of its Sunday magazine, whose ten staff members were told that while they were taking severance they would be ineligible to apply for other jobs in the newsroom. Now Ryan's talk of additional layoffs was met with a flurry of questions. "We're not going to turn the town hall into a grievance session for the guild," Ryan said, referring to the newsroom's union, the Washington Post Guild. Someone responded, "It's not a grievance session—it's questions." Ryan, lanky, white-haired, and besuited, abruptly strode out. A video of the confrontation, which has been viewed three million times, swiftly made the rounds. "That video was a very rare window into Fred when he gets frustrated," Robert Allbritton, who, along with Ryan, was a co-founder of Politico, said. "I guarantee you he walked off that stage and said, 'Oh, shit.' "

On Tuesday morning, Sally Buzbee, the Post's executive editor, sent an e-mail to staff informing them that the paper was cutting twenty positions and will not fill thirty open positions. The layoffs spanned the newsroom, affecting reporters, editors, copy editors, and visual journalists, in particular hitting the copy desk, and closing KidsPost and Launcher, the paper's online gaming vertical. "This was an unforced error made by our publisher with no clear plan or business strategy," an e-mail that the guild sent to its members read. "Fred Ryan is punishing the newsroom's hardworking, award-winning and nimble journalists for his failures as publisher."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Myron Belkind.

-0-

## ***Arizona Republicans exempt lawmakers from the state's open-records law*** (Washington Post)

By Patrick Marley and Yvonne Wingett Sanchez

PHOENIX — Arizona Republicans shielded legislators from the state's open-records law this week — a move that comes months after the release of thousands of documents detailing extensive efforts to undermine Joe Biden's victory here in the 2020 presidential election.

Documents that have surfaced over the past two years include correspondence describing the inner workings of a partisan review of the 2020 election by the Cyber Ninjas, as well as emails by Virginia "Ginni" Thomas, the wife of Supreme Court Justice



Clarence Thomas, urging lawmakers to overturn President Donald Trump's narrow defeat in the state.

The new rules will greatly limit the public release of lawmakers' communications. State senators will not have to disclose any text messages sent on personal devices, even when dealing with state business. For lawmakers in both the Senate and the House, emails and other documents will be destroyed after 90 days — in many cases, well before members of the public know to ask for them.

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

-0-

## ***Citizen journalist's lawsuit heard by federal appeals court*** (AP)

By KEVIN MCGILL

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — An online citizen journalist from Texas asked federal appeals court judges Wednesday to revive her lawsuit against authorities who arrested her for seeking and obtaining nonpublic information from police — a case that has drawn attention from national media organizations and free speech advocates.

A state judge dismissed the criminal case against Priscilla Villarreal in 2018, saying the law used to arrest her in 2017 was deemed unconstitutionally vague, according to court briefs.

Villarreal, known online as "La Gordiloca," then filed a lawsuit against the city of Laredo, Webb County and the police officers and prosecutors involved in her arrest. She said she's entitled to damages because she never should have been arrested for posting information on her Facebook page, "Lagordiloca News LaredoTx."

"I had to make the point that it's not right to get arrested for my freedom of speech and freedom of the press," Villarreal said outside the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals building where arguments were heard Wednesday by the court's 16 active judges.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

## ***Detroit Free Press' Peter Bhatia pens final column as editor | Opinion***

Peter Bhatia

In the end, all I really want to say is thank you.

Thank you to the great journalists I have had the opportunity to lead over the past 5-plus years.

Thank you to the readers of the Free Press who have helped our digital subscription numbers soar.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by from time to time to read about the news of the day.

Thanks, even, to the regular angry emailers who really had nothing nice to say about anything, and just needed to vent.

Leading a news organization these days is a complicated matter, to put it mildly. It can lead people like my departed colleague Brian Dickerson to end up being interviewed by his dog. She asked excellent questions, by the way.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

## ***Guardian US announces Margaret Sullivan as new weekly columnist***

### **Press Release**

Beginning this week, Margaret Sullivan, one of America's leading journalists and media commentators, will join the Guardian US to write a weekly column on media, politics, culture and the urgent moral and political debates of the moment.

Sullivan, an award-winning writer known for her trenchant, deeply insightful columns on media and culture, joins the Guardian after concluding a 6-year stint at the Washington Post, where she was a media columnist from 2016 to 2022. Prior to that, she served as the public editor of the New York Times, and as chief editor of the Buffalo News, her hometown paper. She is also author of the acclaimed book "Ghosting the News: Local Journalism and the Crisis of American Democracy," and the recently published memoir "Newsroom Confidential: Lessons (and Worries) from an Ink-Stained Life." She teaches in the public policy school at Duke University where she is the Egan visiting professor for 2023.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

***Print is far from obsolete - As the news business evolves, so too does printing press technology*** (Editor and Publisher)

**Kirsten Staples | for Editor & Publisher**

Rotary phones, floppy disks, CDs and cassette tapes, pagers, VHS, typewriters — the list goes on. These are all examples of obsolete technologies that have since been phased out as new technologies emerge in the digital age. Some have been repurposed, while others have faded into oblivion. The newspaper and printing industries are no strangers to such adaptations — for example, the printing press.

According to writer Dave Roos, who wrote about the evolution of the printing press for History.com, Johannes Gutenberg is credited as the inventor of the printing press. But a version of it existed in China about 150 years before. A related History.com article references Wang Chen, who created a version of woodblock printing similar to the printing press in 1297. The technology did not emerge in Europe until Gutenberg's metal version appeared in 1440.

Read more [here](#).

## The Final Word

*Future Cringe* (New York Times)

By George Gurley

What are the things we do today that will seem embarrassing or otherwise regrettable to our future selves — the stuff that will make us cringe when we look back on how we lived our lives in the early 2020s?

More than 30 people from academia, fashion, media, the arts and business weighed in, as did a certain infamous chatbot. One day, perhaps very soon, many of these prognosticators said, we will blush to recall how we fished for likes on social media or shared our most private thoughts (and pics) with strangers.

But our online behavior was just one of a multitude of potentially lamentable habits and trends cited by those who took a moment to predict what will make our future selves ashamed. For more, read on.

Read more [here](#).

## Today in History - Jan. 27, 2023





**Today is Friday, Jan. 27, the 27th day of 2022. There are 338 days left in the year.**

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On Jan. 27, 1967, astronauts Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, Edward H. White and Roger B. Chaffee died in a flash fire during a test aboard their Apollo spacecraft.

**On this date:**

In 1756, composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in Salzburg, Austria.

In 1880, Thomas Edison received a patent for his electric incandescent lamp.

In 1888, the National Geographic Society was incorporated in Washington, D.C.

In 1944, during World War II, the Soviet Union announced the complete end of the deadly German siege of Leningrad, which had lasted for more than two years.

In 1945, during World War II, Soviet troops liberated the Nazi concentration camps Auschwitz and Birkenau in Poland.

In 1973, the Vietnam peace accords were signed in Paris.

In 1981, President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, greeted at the White House the 52 former American hostages released by Iran.

In 1984, singer Michael Jackson suffered serious burns to his scalp when pyrotechnics set his hair on fire during the filming of a Pepsi-Cola TV commercial at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

In 2006, Western Union delivered its last telegram.

In 2010, Apple CEO Steve Jobs unveiled the iPad tablet computer during a presentation in San Francisco. J.D. Salinger, the reclusive author of "The Catcher in the Rye," died in Cornish, New Hampshire, at age 91.

In 2013, Flames raced through a crowded nightclub in southern Brazil, killing 242 people.

In 2017, President Donald Trump barred all refugees from entering the United States for four months — and those from war-ravaged Syria indefinitely — declaring the ban necessary to prevent “radical Islamic terrorists” from entering the nation.

In 2020, China confirmed more than 2,700 cases of the new coronavirus with more than 80 deaths in that country; authorities postponed the end of the Lunar New Year holiday to keep the public at home. U.S. health officials said they believed the risk to Americans remained low and that they had no evidence that the new virus was spreading in the United States; they advised Americans to avoid non-essential travel to any part of China.

Ten years ago: Flames raced through a crowded nightclub in southern Brazil, killing 242 people. Novak Djokovic beat Andy Murray 6-7 (2), 7-6 (3), 6-3, 6-2 to become the first man in the Open era to win three consecutive Australian Open titles. The CIA thriller “Argo” won top honor for overall cast performance at the Screen Actors Guild Awards; Jennifer Lawrence won leading actress for “Silver Linings Playbook” while Daniel Day-Lewis won leading actor for “Lincoln.”

Five years ago: A suicide bombing in the Afghan capital of Kabul killed more than 100 people; the attacker was driving an ambulance full of explosives and raced through a security checkpoint after saying he was transferring a patient to a hospital. Comic strip artist Mort Walker, a World War II veteran who satirized the Army with the antics of the lazy private “Beetle Bailey,” died in Connecticut at the age of 94. Caroline Wozniacki won the women’s final at the Australian Open, her first victory in a Grand Slam tournament after 43 tries, beating top-seeded Simona Halep.

One year ago: Liberal Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer confirmed that he would step down from the court later in the year. President Joe Biden strongly affirmed that he would nominate the first Black woman to the Supreme Court to replace Breyer, declaring that such historic representation is “long overdue.” (Biden’s nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson, would be confirmed in April.) Millions of health care workers across the country were required to be vaccinated against COVID-19, as a mandate from the Biden administration took effect in about half the states. Longtime Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger announced his retirement after 18 seasons and two Super Bowl wins.

Today’s birthdays: Actor James Cromwell is 83. Rock musician Nick Mason (Pink Floyd) is 79. R&B singer Nedra Talley (The Ronettes) is 77. Ballet star Mikhail Baryshnikov is 75. Latin singer-songwriter Djavan is 74. U.S. Chief Justice John Roberts is 68. Country singer Cheryl White is 68. Country singer-musician Richard Young (The Kentucky Headhunters) is 68. Actor Mimi Rogers is 67. Rock musician Janick Gers (Iron Maiden) is 66. Actor Susanna Thompson is 65. Political and sports commentator Keith Olbermann is 64. Rock singer Margo Timmins (Cowboy Junkies) is 62. Rock musician Gillian Gilbert is 62. Actor Tamlyn Tomita is 60. Actor Bridget Fonda is 59. Actor Alan Cumming is 58. Country singer Tracy Lawrence is 55. Rock singer Mike Patton is 55. Rapper Tricky is 55. Rock musician Michael Kulas (James) is 54. Actor-comedian Patton Oswalt is 54. Actor Josh Randall is 51. Country singer Kevin Denney is 45. Tennis player

Marat Safin is 43. Rock musician Matt Sanchez (American Authors) is 37. Actor Braeden Lemasters is 27.

## 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**  
**paulstevens46@gmail.com**



Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215

[Unsubscribe stevenspl@live.com](mailto:stevenspl@live.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by paulstevens46@gmail.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!