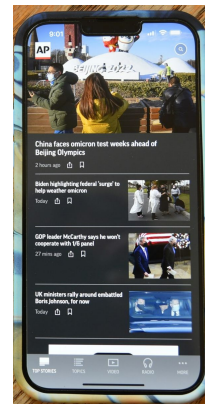


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# Connecting

Feb. 22, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Feb. 22, 2023,

Have you ever served as a pool reporter or photographer?

In the aftermath of the pool work of AP photographer **Evan Vucci** and Wall Street Journal reporter **Sabrina Siddiqui** on President Biden's stealth visit to Ukraine, Connecting would like to hear stories of your own experiences in such roles - the challenges, the upsides and downsides. Please send them along.

**Norm Abelson** and other of our nonagenarian colleagues will not go quietly into the night. They've got plenty to say, and we lead today's issue with Norm's view on ageism.

And while she is not an official part of the Birthdays list in Today in History, Pebbles Flintstone is celebrating today her 60<sup>th</sup> trip around the sun. Our colleague **Jerry Cipriano** has the story.

Happy birthday, Pebbles! Our other "birthday girl" today, colleague **Dorothy Abernathy**, probably had no idea she shares the same birthday with such distinguished company!

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## How old is too old?

[Norm Abelson](#) - I'm getting damn sick and tired of the ageism floating around the political and media worlds.

Joe Biden's too old. Donald Trump is too old. Nancy Pelosi was too old. A male TV news anchor apologizes after saying women over 40 are past their prime. A top Canadian news anchor, a 58-year-old woman, was dumped after letting her hair go gray; she was succeeded by a 39-year-old male. Endless commentary and opinion pieces from the age police, some of them not exactly in their early years.

How old is too old? Don't look to the Constitution: it sets a minimum age but not a maximum. How can we measure the future contribution anyone can make in whatever time is left? Is four years of a weak president worth more than two years of a memorable one? Should we have dumped Lincoln or Kennedy because neither lived long enough to finish their term?

Think about just two pieces in last Friday's Connecting: 85-year-old Shirley Christian, a Pulitzer Prize winner and ace journalist, starting a new business, and 96-year-old world-class photographer Gene Herrick, who not too long ago completed the latest of his books. And look at the list of colleagues writing first-class stuff every day on Connecting - in their 80s, 90s and even a centenarian. Read of the activities of so many of them in their "retirement." World travel. Volunteering. Teaching. Writing. And so much more.

There is an African proverb I often refer to: "When an old man dies, a library burns down." It refers to the multitude of experiences one collects over the years, including the times of failure, and learning to get back on one's feet. In the challenging and dangerous world in which we all live, we cannot afford to waste the talents of those whose hair is gray and whose step is a bit faltering.

My first and arguably best teacher was Isaac Peekel, my great grandfather. In the 1930s, in my first years, he lived with us and became my first teacher and best friend. He would often tell me stories of his early years in Holland; he would read to me from the Book of Knowledge. He would accompany me on Saturdays to watch cowboy movies. He died at age 87, and, indeed, for me a library had burned down.

Speaking for myself, with my 92nd birthday just around the corner, I have no intention of allowing anyone to tell me I don't matter, that I can no longer make a contribution. To the best of my ability, I'm staying in the game.

# Chad Day named chief elections analyst

In a memo to staff, Vice President and Head of News Strategy and Operations David Scott and Director of Public Opinion Research Emily Swanson announced that Chad Day will be AP's new chief elections analyst:

In this new role, Chad, based in Washington, will serve alongside Election Decision Editor Stephen Ohlemacher as one of the senior editors who conducts the final review of AP race calls before we declare winners. He'll partner with elections data scientist Serena Hawkins on building the tools we need to make those race calls accurately and swiftly.

He will also contribute to our growing efforts across the bureau and within the News division to explain the how and the why behind those race calls – and to developing new and innovative ways to tell that piece of the story. He'll partner with Aaron Kessler and other members of the data journalism team to do so, as well as our new and expanding team focused on telling stories on APNews.com and social media.



Chad's return is squarely part of AP's ongoing investment in our work covering elections and playing our unique role in the American democracy, and he can't get here soon enough as we spend this year preparing for the presidential primaries and next year's general election.

Chad rejoins AP from The Wall Street Journal, where he spent the past several years as the lead data reporter on the national politics team, covering presidential campaigns, elections, demographics and money in politics. At the Journal, he specialized in building tools that help reporters tell deeper stories using data, particularly about the American electorate.

Most recently, he was part of a Journal team that revealed weaknesses in the federal government's ethics programs including that thousands of federal officials were allowed to own or trade stocks in companies actively lobbying their agencies.

Of course, many of us know Chad from his time at AP. He was an election analyst on the Decision Team during the 2016 and 2018 campaign cycles and a reporter on the Washington investigative team, where he covered special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation and the 2016 presidential campaign.

A proud Mizzou grad, Chad got his start at the Kansas City Star and reported for the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette before coming to Washington.

Chad's first day will be Feb. 21. Please join us in welcoming him back to the AP!

Click [here](#) for link to this story.

## Journalese

(EDITOR'S NOTE: An item in Tuesday's Connecting incorrectly was attributed to Hoyt Harwell. Here is the correct item.)

**Hoyt Harwell** - About 60 years ago Chris Morton was in the city room of the Boston Evening Transcript and came across a story about policemen using bananas as bait in an attempt to capture fugitive monkeys. "The young rewrite man on the story was bowling along in high spirits, full of references to 'the gendarmes' and 'the blue-coated minions of the law,' and it was inevitable that in such a context the word bananas would seem woefully dull. So it was that bananas became, after first mention, 'the elongated yellow fruit.'" —The Baltimore Sun via Google

## Memories of covering Jimmy Carter



Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter joins a half-dozen Rockettes in a high kick, September 21, 1973, at Radio City Music Hall in New York, while visiting backstage before an afternoon performance. Carter is in New York to induce the film industry to make pictures in his state. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

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**Tim Harper** - I covered Jimmy Carter during his 1976 and 1980 campaigns, but my favorite memory is from nearly two decades into his post-presidency, and showed his

wry, self-effacing humor.

In 1999 Rosalynn Carter was honored by the American Society of Journalists and Authors for the book she co-authored: "Helping Someone With Mental Illness."

She attended the ASJA awards ceremony in New York, and Jimmy came along. As the winner of another award, I was seated at the same table. They were friendly, gracious and chatty. When Jimmy Carter was introduced to a former president of the authors organization, he noticed the name tag with a ribbon that read, "Past President."

"Can I have one of those?" he asked. Someone found a "Past President" ribbon for him, and he wore it cheerfully the rest of the luncheon.

After Mrs. Carter received her award and made brief remarks, the Carters stayed and applauded other winners. But as the event was winding down, they made a hasty exit with excuses for not staying and meeting more people. They said they had to catch a scheduled flight.

Grinning and tapping the "Past President" ribbon, Carter explained, "They don't hold planes for me anymore."

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**Mike Harris** - Jimmy Carter came to Cleveland in the summer of 1976 on his way to the presidency. I was the AP's sports writer in Cleveland at the time, but I was also assigned to other non-sports stories when needed. In this case, I was assigned to accompany Mr. Carter on a visit to the Ford plant in suburban Berea.

It was a bit hectic as he walked through the plant, shaking hands and chatting with dozens of people. We then walked outside and found ourselves at a small baseball field. It turns out that the head of the union at the plant knew Mr. Carter loved baseball and challenged the future president to a softball game.

Mr. Carter enlisted the members of the media as his team, and I found myself playing second base as Mr. Carter did the pitching. It was a lively one-inning game and I only got to field one grounder, which resulted in a high five from Mr. Carter. Our side never got to bat and the "game" wound up 0-0.

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**Bob Ingle** - I met Jimmy Carter when he was a state senator; I was a student at the University of Georgia as was Carter's future chief of staff, Hamilton Jordan. My third AP assignment was Seattle and most there had no idea I knew him or the top people in the administration, although overnight editor Kate McCarthy left an item on the carryover log Election Day: "Bob wants you to vote for the peanut farmer of your choice."

The General Desk needed a quote from VP Mondale when he arrived in Seattle and the Mondale people gave excuses why that wasn't possible and not gonna be. So I made a call to the White House and as the Veep stepped off the plane Mondale was not amused I went to the top: "You want to ask me something?" he growled.

After departing the AP for the Atlanta Constitution as a columnist and assistant to Editor Hal Gulliver, formerly an AP colleague in Atlanta, there was plenty of interaction with the Carters. Lots of inside stories, some of them hilarious, I haven't told publicly.

They had me down to Plains and the president suggested we get a photo on the back porch. About four years ago I was at a small party in Atlanta and told the Carters we need to update that photo. The result is photos 40 years apart.

## Celebrating the birth of Pebbles Flintstone



**Jerry Cipriano** - Sixty years ago tonight, when television was young and Baby Boomers were kids, Wilma Flintstone gave birth to Pebbles in one of the most anticipated events of the 1962-'63 TV season. The hype leading up to the February 22, 1963,

episode included a contest to guess the baby's weight. Hanna-Barbera pressured TV writers to cover the birth, which resulted in this January 11, 1963, column by reluctant Los Angeles Times TV critic Hal Humphrey, picked up by The Associated Press:

HOLLYWOOD (AP) It's difficult for me to get steamed up one way or the other about the successful Hanna-Barbera TV cartoon shows, "Flintstones" and "Jetsons." It isn't anything against cartoons per se. I'm a sucker for "Magoo," and Bugs Bunny's cynical attitude amuses me. Dudley Do Right (out of "Bullwinkle") is one of my favorite TV characters. My indifference toward Fred Flintstone and George Jetson is certainly no fault of the energetic and bulldoggish Arnie Carr, who is the publicity man for Hanna-Barbera Productions.

"You can't spend your whole life having fun writing negative columns," admonished Arnie during one of his weekly phone visits the other day. "Do something positive."

"Like what?" I made the mistake of replying.

"Like writing a column about Pebbles Flintstone."

"And who is Pebbles Flintstone?"

"Fred and Wilma's new baby. On the Jan. 25 show, Wilma told Fred she was going to have a baby. On Feb. 22, Pebbles is born. It will be the biggest birth on TV since Lucy's baby—bigger even! Don't tell me you're against family life?" cried Arnie.

TO FORESTALL what smelled like a blackmail attempt here, I hastened to reaffirm my allegiance to family life of all kinds. I also, however, told Arnie that I didn't feel whimsical enough to interview a cartoon character.

"You interviewed those three chimps on the 'Hathaways' show last season," replied Arnie, reproachfully.

"True," I said, "but at least they were three-dimensional. At times, in fact, I'd say they acted more alert than some so-called human actors I've been interviewing."

"Do you realize that the Flintstones are so popular in Sweden that a soft drink called 'Flinta' sold five million bottles in one week?" said Arnie, in a quick change of strategy.

"What will they think of next!"

"AND DO YOU KNOW that 'Flintstone-San' is the No. 1 show in Tokyo and that 'Senor Flintstone' is in 12 South American countries?"

"I'll make a note of that."

"You're fighting me," Arnie warned. "I'm trying to give you an upbeat column, which you need brother. Now how about 'The Jetsons?' Do you realize this show is running neck and neck with Disney and 'Dennis the Menace' on Sunday nights?"

"Not according to the last Nielsen I saw."



"That must have been the national Nielsen, but 'Jetsons' is ahead on the Nielsen 30 city rating. Incidentally, did I tell you that the CBS station in Milwaukee is running 'Best of Huckleberry Hound and Yogi Bear' against 'Ben Casey'?"

"ARE YOU GOING to tell me Huck and Yogi repeats are beating out Ben Casey?"

"Look. I admit I haven't seen the latest Nielsen, but I've heard. Anyway, how about getting back to Pebbles Flintstone? She will be born in Rock-A-Pedic hospital, and the doctor's name is Sprock—get it?—Sp-ROCK. Cute, huh?"

"I suppose the kid also will have a bone in her hair instead of a ribbon, and her rattle will be filled with little rocks."

"How did you know that?" asked Arnie, incredulously.

"One of those crazy hunches, that's all."

"Yeah, but I'll bet you couldn't guess what kind of diapers she'll wear."

"I give up."

"Leopard skin diapers—funny?"

"Fairly funny," I said.

"Okay, then how about that column?"

"I'm afraid not, Arnie. Leopard skin diapers aren't that funny."

"Don't make it a firm no. I'll think of something else and call you next week. You need an upbeat column."

## A tribute to George Krimsky

[Lyle Price](#) - I have just now noticed the photo in Monday's Connecting of George Krimsky, his wife Paula and their infant child.

The photo was in connection with an event in the Jimmy Carter presidency when he noted that Krimsky had been unjustly evicted from the Soviet Union as an AP correspondent in Moscow. Krimsky had started with AP in the Los Angeles bureau and is listed on my January 1970 printout of the LA roster. The reported comment in Connecting that the NYT had termed him "one of the most tenacious reporters in the Moscow press corps" is right on target in describing the man that I knew in "LA" and visited on one of my trips to NY before he went to Moscow.



I didn't know of his death until I saw his name listed in Connecting at the end of the year in which he died, which has been about a decade ago, I estimate. I hadn't been a Connecting colleague at the time of his death. George and I had exchanged e-mails after he returned to duty with AP in New York and he had told me that he had serious lung problems but I hadn't been aware of just how serious that things were. I also knew his wife Paula and they both had been at two or three parties at AP-LA in my time there.

My note now is to express a tribute to George from myself and I'm sure others who knew him in the LA bureau since I hadn't done so previously.

It may be that I had a slight hand by accident in assisting George in tracking down helpful Russian sources, re reports that said he was good at tracking down dissidents - a fact that the Russian doubtlessly would like. This assistance happened for a couple of years in the first half of the 1970s when he was in Moscow and I was in LA. What was involved were phone calls every couple of weeks for several years from a man who had fled in the late 1960s from behind the Iron Curtain and wanted to give me contract info on dissent types that he knew and was in touch with. He was Jewish and said his contacts were Jewish dissidents living in Russia. I don't think he gave me full names but the contact info would have been sufficient, I think. I sent the info to NY and they told me they were sending it to Moscow AP.

The immigrant was Zev Yaroslavsky, who became a successful LA area politician. The reason I made original contact with him is because I had found out perhaps via an LA Times story that he was living in his car and running for the LA city council on a shoestring. That struck me as a good AP story that had a potential range beyond just the LA area. I know it ran on the California state wire but don't know if it made the AAA or was even sent to NY on a collection wire as was the practice for a number of years. (I liked to live on the AAA but I don't think I'd rated it a slam dunk to the point of lobbying for such--a practice I wasn't above engaging in.)

I think Zev may have been the one who also would use his two arms to hang a vote for Zev sign over a freeway overpass for drivers to see. There was one political hopeful that did so that I wrote about, at any rate. Zev won election and became a successful politician. I just Googled him out to be sure I had the name spelled right.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Dorothy Abernathy](#)

## Stories of interest

*Supreme Court wrestles with lawsuit shield for social media* (AP)

By **MARK SHERMAN**

WASHINGTON (AP) — In its first case about the federal law that is credited with helping create the modern internet, the Supreme Court seemed unlikely Tuesday to side with a family wanting to hold Google liable for the death of their daughter in a terrorist attack.

At the same time, the justices also signaled in arguments lasting two and a half hours that they are wary of Google's claims that a 1996 law, Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, affords it, Twitter, Facebook and other companies far-reaching immunity from lawsuits over their targeted recommendations of videos, documents and other content.

The case highlighted the tension between technology policy fashioned a generation ago and the reach of today's social media, numbering billions of posts each day.

"We really don't know about these things. You know, these are not like the nine greatest experts on the internet," Justice Elena Kagan said of herself and her colleagues, several of whom smiled at the description.

Congress, not the court, should make needed changes to a law passed early in the internet age, Kagan said.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Jen Psaki, ex-Biden spokesperson, to debut Sunday MSNBC show*** (AP)

By **DAVID BAUDER**

NEW YORK (AP) — Former White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki will debut a weekly MSNBC political program on Sundays at noon next month, the network said on Tuesday.

It's part of an effort to give Joe Biden's first presidential spokesperson an exhaustive role on the political network — streaming, social media, various television shows and a columnist for its morning newsletter.

"Jen's Sunday show is just a piece of a much bigger puzzle," said Rebecca Kutler, MSNBC's senior vice president for content strategy. "We want to bring Jen's voice to MSNBC's audience everywhere."

That Sunday show, "Inside with Jen Psaki," puts her at a time of week popular for many television public affairs show. Her show will contain one-on-one interviews with newsmakers, essays and explainers of complicated political issues like the war in Ukraine and debt ceiling talks.

It will also be available the next day on the Peacock streaming service. Psaki is developing other content for Peacock that will fit into the “Inside” brand the network is developing for her, Kutler said.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***McCarthy gives Carlson access to Jan. 6 footage, raising alarms*** (AP)

By LISA MASCARO, FARNOUSH AMIRI and MARY CLARE JALONICK

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thousands of hours of surveillance footage from the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol are being made available to Fox News Channel host Tucker Carlson, a stunning level of access granted by House Speaker Kevin McCarthy that Democrats swiftly condemned as a “grave” breach of security with potentially far-reaching consequences.

The hard-right political commentator said his team is spending the week at the Capitol pouring through the video and preparing to reveal their findings to his viewers. But granting exclusive access to sensitive Jan. 6 security footage to such a deeply partisan figure is a highly unusual move, seen by some critics as essentially outsourcing House oversight to a TV personality who has promoted conspiracy theories about the attack.

“It’s a shocking development that brings in both political concerns but even more importantly, security concerns,” said Rep. Dan Goldman, D-N.Y., who was a chief counsel during President Donald Trump’s first impeachment trial.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***CNN’s Don Lemon tweets another apology, returns to work*** (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — CNN anchor Don Lemon tweeted an apology to viewers for his remarks about Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley shortly before returning to work on Wednesday, then stuck to the news.

He made no mention of his comments last week that Haley was not in “her prime,” during the first hour of “CNN This Morning,” sticking to stories like President Joe Biden’s trip to Ukraine, the Ohio train derailment and winter weather.

Lemon, during the hour before he went on the air, tweeted that he appreciated the opportunity to return to work. He was absent for three days.

“To my network, my colleagues and our incredible audience — I’m sorry,” he tweeted. “I’ve heard you, I’m learning from you, and I’m committed to doing better.”

His tweet made no mention of Haley, who called Lemon’s comments sexist and has been referring to them in fundraising appeals.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Red McCombs, Car Salesman Turned Media Mogul, Dies at 95*** (New York Times)

By Glenn Rifkin

Red McCombs, a former Texas used car dealer who became a billionaire entrepreneur by venturing into an array of successful businesses, including the media giant Clear Channel Communications and several professional sports teams, died on Sunday at his home in San Antonio. He was 95.

His family announced his death but did not state the cause.

Mr. McCombs was a flamboyant wheeler-dealer who created more than 400 businesses across an array of industries, including oil, real estate, cattle, insurance, movies and racehorses, often selling them at a substantial profit. At various times he owned a pro football team, the Minnesota Vikings, and two pro basketball teams, the San Antonio Spurs and Denver Nuggets.

But his heart was in the automobile business, where he began as a standout car salesman in Corpus Christi, Texas, in 1950. He went on to start his own dealership, and then expanded it into a network that at its peak in 1998 included more than 100 outlets, making it the largest car dealership in Texas and sixth largest in the United States.

“I was an entrepreneur before I knew what the word was and certainly before I could spell it,” Mr. McCombs said in a 2006 radio interview. “New deals, new opportunities, new ventures are always a part of my life.”

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

## **Today in History - Feb. 22, 2023**



**Today is Wednesday, Feb. 22, the 53rd day of 2023. There are 312 days left in the year.**

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On Feb. 22, 2021, the number of U.S. deaths from COVID-19 topped 500,000, according to Johns Hopkins University.

### **On this date:**

In 1630, English colonists in the Massachusetts Bay Colony first sampled popcorn brought to them by a Native American named Quadequina for their Thanksgiving celebration.

In 1732, the first president of the United States, George Washington, was born in Westmoreland County in the Virginia Colony.

In 1784, a U.S. merchant ship, the Empress of China, left New York for the Far East to trade goods with China.

In 1935, it became illegal for airplanes to fly over the White House.

In 1959, the inaugural Daytona 500 race was held; although Johnny Beauchamp was initially declared the winner, the victory was later awarded to Lee Petty.

In 1967, more than 25,000 U.S. and South Vietnamese troops launched Operation Junction City, aimed at smashing a Vietcong stronghold near the Cambodian border. (Although the communists were driven out, they later returned.)

In 1980, the "Miracle on Ice" took place in Lake Placid, New York, as the United States Olympic hockey team upset the Soviets, 4-3. (The U.S. team went on to win the gold medal.)

In 1987, pop artist Andy Warhol died at a New York City hospital at age 58.

In 1997, scientists in Scotland announced they had succeeded in cloning an adult mammal, producing a lamb named "Dolly." (Dolly, however, was later put down after a

short life marred by premature aging and disease.)

In 2010, Najibullah Zazi (nah-jee-BOO'-lah ZAH'-zee), accused of buying beauty supplies to make bombs for an attack on New York City subways, pleaded guilty to charges including conspiring to use weapons of mass destruction. (Zazi faced up to life in prison but spent nearly a decade after his arrest helping the U.S. identify and prosecute terrorists; he was given a 10-year sentence followed by supervised release.)

In 2016, the City Council of Charlotte, North Carolina, voted 7-4 to pass a new law allowing transgender people to choose public bathrooms that corresponded to their gender identity.

In 2020, Bernie Sanders scored a resounding win in Nevada's presidential caucuses, cementing his status as the Democrats' front-runner.

Ten years ago: The Justice Department joined a lawsuit against disgraced cyclist Lance Armstrong alleging the former seven-time Tour de France champion had concealed his use of performance-enhancing drugs and defrauded his longtime sponsor, the U.S. Postal Service.

Five years ago: Defying his supporters in the National Rifle Association, President Donald Trump said the nation should keep assault rifles out of the hands of anyone under 21. Authorities announced that the armed officer who was on duty at the Parkland, Florida school where a shooter killed 17 people never went into the building to engage the gunman. The U.S. women's hockey team won the gold medal at the Winter Olympics in South Korea, beating Canada 3-2 after a shootout tiebreaker.

One year ago: The East-West faceoff over Ukraine escalated dramatically, with Russian lawmakers authorizing President Vladimir Putin to use military force outside his country and U.S. President Joe Biden and European leaders responding by slapping sanctions on Russian oligarchs and banks. (Russia would invade Ukraine two days later.) In Georgia, the three white men convicted of murder in Ahmaud Arbery's fatal shooting are found guilty of federal hate crimes for violating Arbery's civil rights and targeting him because he was Black. U.S. women soccer players reached a landmark agreement with the sport's American governing body to end a six-year legal battle over equal pay.

Today's birthdays: Actor Paul Dooley is 95. Actor James Hong is 94. Actor John Ashton is 75. Actor Miou-Miou is 73. Actor Julie Walters is 73. Basketball Hall of Famer Julius Erving is 73. Actor Ellen Greene is 72. Former Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., is 71. Former White House adviser David Axelrod is 68. Actor Kyle MacLachlan is 64. World Golf Hall of Famer Vijay Singh is 60. Actor-comedian Rachel Dratch is 57. Actor Paul Lieberstein is 56. Actor Jeri Ryan is 55. Actor Thomas Jane is 54. TV host Clinton Kelly is 54. Actor Tamara Mello is 53. Actor-singer Lea Salonga is 52. Actor Jose Solano is 52. International Tennis Hall of Famer Michael Chang is 51. Rock musician Scott Phillips is 50. Singer James Blunt is 49. Actor Drew Barrymore is 48. Actor Liza Huber is 48. Rock singer Tom Higgenson (Plain White T's) is 44. Rock musician Joe Hottinger (Halestorm) is 41. Actor Zach Roerig is 38.



# 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.



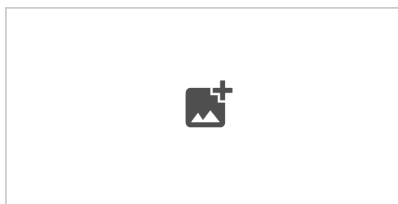
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

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**



Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining"!

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