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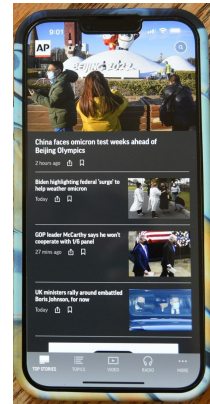
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Connecting

May 22, 2023

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ABOVE: The AP Connecting Reunion group in attendance on Friday night. Photo/David Woo.

RIGHT: Additional attendees on Saturday night. Photo/Diana Heidgerd

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this May 22, 2023,

Sharing memories of decades of covering stories was a big part of last weekend's AP Connecting reunion in the Dallas area.



More than 50 people attended two group dinners and helped a beloved longtime Texas (now retired) staffer celebrate his 82nd birthday. **Charles Richards** of Paris (as in Texas, not France), better known in journalism circles by his initials CR, was featured in the **May 12 edition** of Connecting.



Charles was joined by his wife, **Barbara**, as reunion co-hosts **Mike Holmes** of Omaha and **Diana Heidgerd** of Dallas surprised him on Saturday night with a chocolate birthday cake.

The reunion weekend began Friday night with a group dinner at a BBQ restaurant operated by former AP journalist **David Sedeño** and his family. The celebration of AP continued Saturday evening with a Tex-Mex dinner and a 20-question quiz: How much do you know about AP's staff, stories & history? FYI the winner – **Linda Sargent** of Dallas.

The reunion concluded with some attendees going to the Texas Rangers vs. Colorado Rockies game on Sunday. Texas won 13-3 on a mild afternoon when the usually closed retractable roof of Globe Life Field in Arlington was open and the AP friends enjoyed the Rangers slugfest and \$1 Blue Bell ice cream treats.

More from the reunion in Connecting this week.

Meantime, enjoy stories in today's issue on honoring a great photographer, never saying you're too old for tennis, and posing nude at a seniors center. (Did I bury the lead?)

Here's to the new week ahead – be safe, stay healthy, live each day to your fullest!

Paul

An homage to Hugh Van Es



Photo/Neal Ulevich



Photo/Hugh Van Es

Neal Ulevich - At Lexington, Nebraska, just off I-80, a Vietnam-era UH-1 'Huey' helicopter advertises a nearby military vehicle museum. The scene recreates the stunning image by the late UPI photographer Hugh Van Es, panicked civilians climbing a ladder to board a helicopter perched precariously atop a Saigon apartment building. It was the last day of the Vietnam War and the would-be passengers, mostly civilian dependents of US Embassy personnel, were desperate to leave before the arrival of North Vietnamese forces. During much of the war, Van Es, a skilled photojournalist and good friend, worked for AP.

Years ago, I discovered this re-creation and mailed some snapshots to Hugh. He was surprised and pleased to see this homage to his work. This image was made this year while on a road trip. I used an 80-year-old box camera, another image in a personal ongoing box camera project.

How old is too old for tennis? Certainly not 92!



Henry Bradsher - "How old is too old to play tennis?"

Those Kansas youngsters, only in their 70s and 80s, who're playing tennis with Ye Olde Connecting Editor (see Friday's issue) should come down to Baton Rouge to play with me, recently past 92 (although telling people I no longer have birthdays; enough already).

After taking my first tennis lesson at age 6, I didn't have much time to play until finishing college but have kept it up since.

Aside from tennis, I took up golf during AP coverage of Martin Luther King Jr.'s Montgomery bus boycott in 1956. Working 4 p.m. until well after midnight and getting to bed about 2 a.m., I'd get up at 6 o'clock, play some dewy dawn golf with guys from the local paper (without ever having any proper lessons), back to my garage apartment to sleep some more, and go back to work.

But I gave up golf because the clubs are too much to haul around. When later reporting had me traveling around Asia, my suitcase included a racket, can of balls, shoes and shorts to pick up games in many countries.

Now I play on artificial clay courts at a nice club. The courts are easier on the knees and shoes than the concrete courts on which I played before retiring here, although not so nice as the grass on which I've played in England and India. We play here from 32 degrees (no snow) to 92 degrees (although, with humidity, it often feels like 100).

My regular Thursday doubles games include an 86-year-old and a couple of guys just 72 and 69. Regular Saturday games involve a variety of people, none much past their 70s. Sometimes subbing with other doubles groups earlier in the week also means kids just in their 70s.

Time does have its effects, however. Nowadays, my partners and I only win about half the time, sometimes even a bit less than that.

When my club has a tournament, the age categories top out at 75 and over. Rather than challenging someone just a youthful 76, I keep telling the organizers they should have a 90-and-over category. That I could win. No other active club member would be eligible.

A Bucket List item revealed



Cliff Schiappa - For some, being naked in front of clothed people is a recurring nightmare that causes them to wake up in a cold sweat. For me, a variation of that has been an item on my bucket list for many years.

Ye olde editor's daily admonition at the top of this newsletter reads "Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy, live the day to your fullest!" For 39 years I've never argued with Paul's wisdom, so I ticked off an item on my bucket list this week when I was a model for the Nude Figure Sketching Salon at the Mizell Senior Center here in Palm Springs (Calif.).

My condo neighbor Andy had done it last month and he mentioned they needed more models, so he connected me with Ector Simpson, the Center's volunteer coordinator, and a time slot was made for me to appear unencumbered by pesky clothing.

Here in Palm Springs, nudity will draw yawns. After all, in a town of 45,000 we have almost 20 clothing optional resorts, a 46-unit nude condo complex, a naked hiking club, numerous nude yoga classes both indoors and out, and countless naked dinners and pool parties hosted at people's homes.

Upon arrival at the senior center, I was loaned a kimono from the thrift store and went to inspect the room where the class would assemble. It was very chilly... ahem... so I asked Ector to raise the thermostat. The first student to arrive, Linda, mentioned I looked great in the kimono, and upon closer inspection she said it was very high quality. I asked Ector if it was for sale and he kindly offered it for a great price that I gladly paid.

Because the snowbirds have flown the coop, it was a small gathering, only four artists: Linda, Susan, Marta, and Pete. The lighting was a tad haphazard, so always a photographer, I convinced the artists to forego the overhead fluorescents (nobody looks good under that light!) and suggested using the natural light coming through the open doorway which everyone thought was a splendid idea.

Sketch pads and easels were setup and it was time for me to get naked. Making use of numerous poses from my 16 years of naked yoga classes, I mixed in short (about 3-4 minutes) with longer poses (10-20 minutes) laying on the floor, or balanced on one leg, and also made use of a couple chairs as props. I'm fortunate to be very calm and flexible which makes holding poses so much easier, in fact I caught myself dozing off during a 20-minute pose. At one point, I brought the kimono into some of the poses, the silk folds and colorful pattern displayed beautifully in the warm indirect light.

When the two-hour session was over, I asked to see their work and everyone had a distinctive style. Marta used charcoal for dark, bold, flowing strokes. Linda introduced color pencils that suggested an added dimension. Susan used very light, ethereal pencil strokes, almost translucent upon her pages. And Pete, a former Warner Bros. Studio artist, had forceful geometric lines that he created in very short order.

For me, a 65-year-old man and the oldest in the room, it would be affirming to hear any compliment about my appearance. The artists were very pleased with my yoga poses, something other models had never done. And frankly, to be told by total strangers I have good muscle tone and look great while naked, now that's certainly a major ego boost.

Which brings it all back to Paul's encouraging words to be safe, stay healthy and live life to the fullest... Whatever and wherever that may be, and however one may be dressed. Or not.

Roosevelt Hotel in Midtown Manhattan begins welcoming migrants



Mark Mittelstadt - The Roosevelt Hotel, at 45th Street and Madison Avenue just a few blocks from 50 Rock, was one of the places AP would put visiting executives and staffers during extended stays in New York City. Its older rooms with plush furniture and amenities had a home feel that provided comfortable lodging.

I was put there a couple times, including during a two-week fill-in for an ailing Membership executive.

The Roosevelt is also where mythical tycoon Gordon Gekko (Michael Douglas) gave his famous “Greed is good” speech in the movie Wall Street.

The hotel closed during COVID but is being reopened to house migrants flooding the city.

Click [here](#) for a WABC story, which begins:

NEW YORK CITY (WABC) -- The Roosevelt Hotel in Midtown began welcoming migrants as the latest round of buses from southern states arrived early Friday.

The first of 15 expected buses arrived in New York City and took migrants to the hotel around 7 a.m.

The city is transitioning its welcoming services from the Port Authority, where volunteers played a key role, to the Roosevelt Hotel which is being run by NYC Health + Hospitals.

BEST OF THE WEEK — FIRST WINNER

AP's cross-format coverage across borders dominates Title 42 coverage



A team of AP journalists provided comprehensive and visually led coverage of the expiration of pandemic-related asylum restrictions in the U.S. and the impact on people both along and far from the U.S.-Mexico border.

AP journalists in the U.S. and Latin America had been here before: Pandemic-related asylum restrictions in the U.S., known as Title 42, were set to expire at least twice in the previous year until courts intervened. This time though, they knew it was for real and spent weeks and months reporting about the consequences, from disinformation spread to would-be asylum seekers thousands of miles away to major shifts in U.S. immigration policy that will have effects for years to come. But it was in the days surrounding the expiration date itself that the expertise and collaboration of colleagues from California to Colombia and El Paso to Washington shone.

As the end of Title 42 approached, U.S. immigration team leader Elliot Spagat worked closely with Department of Homeland Security reporter Rebecca Santana, White House reporter Colleen Long and others to ensure steady and analytic coverage of the Biden administration's preparations, including an explainer that would sit atop Google search traffic and APNews page views for days.

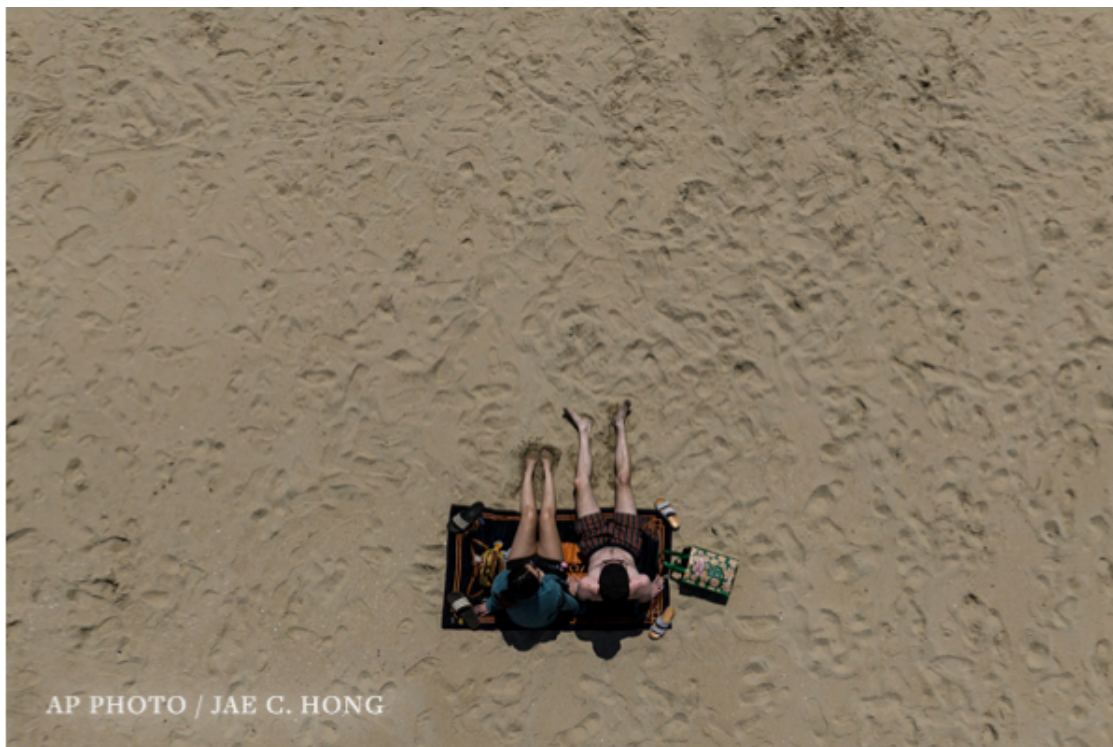
And as thousands of asylum seekers sought to cross the Mexico-U.S. border ahead of the expiration, AP responded. After days of tireless reporting on a crash that killed eight migrants outside a shelter in Brownsville, Texas, reporter Valerie Gonzalez — barely weeks into her new gig at AP — didn't miss a beat, deploying to strategic points with photographer Julio Cortez as restrictions expired — and scoring a scoop on detailed Border Patrol contingency plans for releasing migrants from overcrowded

facilities. Across from Brownsville, photographer Fernando Llano and video journalist Gerardo Carrillo provided coverage from Matamoros, including a steady stream of live shots and a signature image from Llano of a baby swaddled atop a suitcase being carried across the Rio Grande.

Read more [here](#).

BEST OF THE WEEK — SECOND WINNER

American teenagers open up to AP about sexuality



Education reporter Jocelyn Gecker pushes beyond a government study of teen sexuality to find lots of gray areas and evidence of a shifting culture.

In America, teenagers' lingo concerning sexuality has evolved significantly. Ever heard of "situationships" or "sneaky links"? AP education reporter Jocelyn Gecker explored the language of teen sexual mores to produce a forward-thinking story on a study of risky youth behaviors by the Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention.

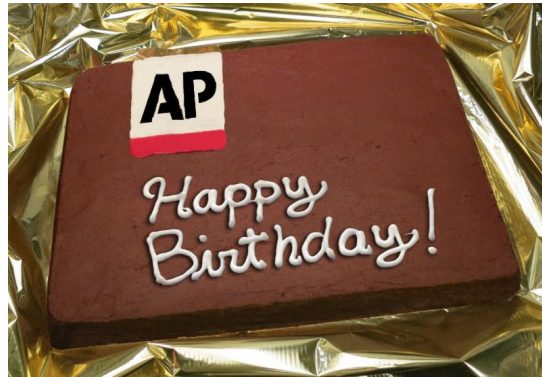
After the CDC study came out showing that fewer American teens were having sexual intercourse, Gecker worked with several groups to reach out to youths who could speak to an interesting dichotomy in Gen Z sexuality. In part, Gecker found evidence that decreased sexual intercourse among teenagers doesn't necessarily mean they're having less sex. She weaved together quotes from teens, experts and advocates to show not only what was happening and why, but what it meant.

The AP agreed to use teenagers' first or middle names in the story, out of concern over backlash they might face at school, at home or on social media for their

outspokenness on the topic. Still, illustrating the story proved difficult; several people who had said they'd be photographed later changed their minds. AP photographers Jae Hong and Sue Ogrocki found images that fit the story perfectly.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Mike Hammer](#)

Stories of interest

From 'Front-Page Girls' to Newsroom Leaders (New York Times)

By Jane Kamensky

UNDAUNTED: How Women Changed American Journalism, by Brooke Kroeger

Raise your hand if you've heard of Anne O'Hare McCormick. I hadn't, and as the director of Radcliffe's Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, which holds peerless collections documenting pioneers in print journalism, I could have, and definitely should have. Brooke Kroeger's compendious and lively "Undaunted: How Women Changed American Journalism" introduced me to her.

Born in England in the early 1880s, McCormick became as eminent a reporter as any in the United States. In 1921, while working as a stringer for The New York Times in Rome, she took the measure of a rising young legislator named Benito Mussolini. In the coming years, she would also interview Stalin, Hitler and the Irish revolutionary leader Eamon de Valera.

Male colleagues were left sputtering as this "sparkly, matronly freelancer" regularly "big-footed them with dainty toes," Kroeger writes. The Times put McCormick on the payroll and then on the editorial board, a first for a woman. In a photograph of that table of mandarins, it's easy to spot her, among 15 white men. At the New York

World's Fair, she was presented as "the Woman of 1939," chosen for the honor by an all-female jury over Eleanor Roosevelt and Georgia O'Keeffe, among other nominees.

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

-0-

TikTok and other social media trends are thrusting performance crimes into the US spotlight (AP)

By CLAUDIA LAUER and HALELUYA HADERO

NEW YORK (AP) — Jonnifer Neal's Kia was stolen twice in one day — first from in front of her Chicago home and later from outside the mechanic shop where she took it to get fixed.

But Neal's ordeal didn't end there. After her car was recovered a month later, she was stopped by police twice coming home from work because a police error caused the Optima to remain listed as stolen. The same error resulted in officers waking her up at 3 a.m. another night. On yet another occasion, a swarm of officers pulled her over as she was traveling to Mississippi, handcuffing and placing her in the back of a cruiser for more than an hour.

The Kia now sits in her garage.

"It's been a few months, but honestly I'm still nervous," Neal said. "I drive that car maybe once in a blue moon and I loved that car."

Neal's story is one of thousands from Kia and Hyundai owners across the country whose cars were stolen or damaged in the past two years.

The sharp uptick has been linked to viral videos, posted to TikTok and other social media platforms, teaching people how to start the cars with USB cables and exploit a security vulnerability in some models sold in the U.S. without engine immobilizers, a standard feature on most cars since the 1990s preventing the engine from starting unless the key is present.

Read more [here](#).

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Hard Times at The Times-News: Inside the death of a small-town North Carolina newspaper (Shorthand)

By Alicia Clanton, Amy Ellison, Gabriella Sable, and Raquel Romo

hen a drugstore three blocks from Lee Barnes' home in St. Petersburg, Florida was robbed at gunpoint, there was no word of it in the local newspaper.

It had to be a cover-up, a neighbor speculated on his local Yahoo News group. The sunny Florida city is popular among tourists. No one died in the robbery, but a story like that could scare off visitors.

Having spent a career in local journalism, Lee knew better. He'd seen firsthand what the internet did to local news. There was no conspiracy, he told the commenter. More likely, the reporters just didn't have the time.

"Unless somebody gets killed, it's not going to be in the paper," Lee said. "And it's not some big cover-up, they just don't have the means to do it. And that's, in a nutshell, what's happening now. Nothing's getting into the paper because there's no manpower to report it."

That is exactly what is happening at the Burlington Times-News, Lee's former place of work. He spent two stints as an editor there- one as managing editor from 1981 to 1986 and then as executive editor from 2001 to 2007.

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

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False claims of a stolen election thrive unchecked on Twitter even as Musk promises otherwise (AP)

By ALI SWENSON

NEW YORK (AP) — In an interview this week, Twitter owner Elon Musk said users making false claims of stolen elections “will be corrected” on the platform.

Prompted by a CNBC reporter for extra assurance that would happen, Musk responded, “Oh yeah, 100%.”

Yet many such claims have thrived on Twitter in the week since former President Donald Trump spent much of a CNN town hall digging in on his lie that the 2020 election was “rigged” against him. Twitter posts that amplified those false claims have thousands of shares with no visible enforcement, a review of posts on the platform shows.

The contrast between Musk’s promise and the extent the claims are spreading on Twitter underscores a major challenge for social media companies trying to call out election conspiracy theories and falsehoods that Trump and his supporters continue to promote. That will only grow as the nation prepares for a presidential election next year in which Trump is again vying to be the Republican nominee.

It’s unclear whether Musk and his newly hired chief executive, Linda Yaccarino, are planning any changes to Twitter to crack down on the misinformation, which election experts and tech accountability advocates say heightens risks to election officials and erodes trust in democracy.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Larry Blasko.

Today in History - May 22, 2023



Today is Monday, May 22, the 142nd day of 2023. There are 223 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 22, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson, speaking at the University of Michigan, outlined the goals of his "Great Society," saying that it "rests on abundance and liberty for all" and "demands an end to poverty and racial injustice."

On this date:

In 1939, the foreign ministers of Germany and Italy, Joachim von Ribbentrop and Galeazzo Ciano, signed a "Pact of Steel" committing the two countries to a military alliance.

In 1960, an earthquake of magnitude 9.5, the strongest ever measured, struck southern Chile, claiming some 1,655 lives.

In 1962, Continental Airlines Flight 11, en route from Chicago to Kansas City, Missouri, crashed after a bomb apparently brought on board by a passenger exploded, killing all 45 occupants of the Boeing 707.

In 1967, a fire at the L'Innovation department store in Brussels killed 322 people. Poet and playwright Langston Hughes died in New York at age 65.

In 1968, the nuclear-powered submarine USS Scorpion, with 99 men aboard, sank in the Atlantic Ocean. (The remains of the sub were later found on the ocean floor 400 miles southwest of the Azores.)

In 1969, the lunar module of Apollo 10, with Thomas P. Stafford and Eugene Cernan aboard, flew to within nine miles of the moon's surface in a dress rehearsal for the first lunar landing.

In 1985, U.S. sailor Michael L. Walker was arrested aboard the aircraft carrier Nimitz, two days after his father, John A. Walker Jr., was apprehended; both were later convicted of spying for the Soviet Union. (Michael Walker served 15 years in prison and was released in 2000.)

In 1992, after a reign lasting nearly 30 years, Johnny Carson hosted NBC's "Tonight Show" for the final time. (Jay Leno took over as host three days later.)

In 2006, The Department of Veterans Affairs said personal data, including Social Security numbers of 26.5 million U.S. veterans, was stolen from a VA employee after he took the information home without authorization.

In 2011, a tornado devastated Joplin, Missouri, with winds up to 250 mph, claiming at least 159 lives and destroying about 8,000 homes and businesses.

In 2020, "Full House" star Lori Loughlin and her fashion designer husband, Mossimo Giannulli, pleaded guilty to paying half a million dollars into the University of Southern California as part of a college admissions bribery scheme. (Loughlin would spend two months behind bars; Giannulli began a five-month sentence in November 2020 and was released to home confinement in April 2021.)

Ten years ago: Lois Lerner, an Internal Revenue Service supervisor whose agents had targeted conservative groups, swore to a House committee she did nothing wrong, then refused to answer further questions, citing her Fifth Amendment right not to incriminate herself. In a brutal daylight attack in London, two al-Qaida-inspired extremists with butcher knives hacked to death an off-duty British soldier, Lee Rigby, before police wounded them in a shootout. (The attackers were later sentenced to prison.)

Five years ago: Stacey Abrams won Georgia's Democratic gubernatorial primary, making her the first woman nominee for Georgia governor from either major party. (Abrams, seeking to become the nation's first black female governor, was defeated in November by Republican Brian Kemp.) Novelist Philip Roth, whose books included "Portnoy's Complaint" and the Pulitzer Prize-winning "American Pastoral," died in New York at the age of 85. A judge in upstate New York ordered a 30-year-old man to move out of his parents' house after they went to court to have him ejected.

One year ago: Polish President Andrzej Duda became the first foreign leader to address the Ukrainian parliament since Russia invaded the country. He traveled to Kyiv to support Ukraine's goal of becoming a candidate for European Union membership. Leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention, America's largest Protestant denomination, stonewalled and denigrated survivors of clergy sex abuse over almost two decades while seeking to protect their own reputations, according to a scathing 288-page investigative report. Kate McKinnon and Pete Davidson departed from "Saturday Night Live," leaving the sketch institution without arguably its two most famous names after its 47th season finale.

Today's Birthdays: Conductor Peter Nero is 89. Actor-director Richard Benjamin is 85. Actor Frank Converse is 85. Actor Barbara Parkins is 81. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Tommy John is 80. Songwriter Bernie Taupin is 73. Actor-producer Al Corley is 68. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, is 66. Singer Morrissey is 64. Actor Ann Cusack is 62. Country musician Dana Williams (Diamond Rio) is 62. Rock musician Jesse Valenzuela is 61. Actor Mark Christopher Lawrence is 59. R&B singer Johnny Gill (New Edition) is 57. Rock musician Dan Roberts (Crash Test Dummies) is 56. Actor Brooke Smith is 56. Actor Michael Kelly is 54. Model Naomi Campbell is 53. Actor Anna Belknap is 51. Actor Alison Eastwood is 51. Singer Donell Jones is 50. Actor Sean Gunn is 49. Actor A.J. Langer is 49. Actor Ginnifer Goodwin is 45. R&B singer Vivian Green is 44. Actor Maggie Q is 44. Olympic gold medal speed skater Apolo Anton Ohno is 41. Actor Molly Ephraim (TV: "Last Man Standing") is 37. Tennis player Novak Djokovic is 36. Actor Anna Baryshnikov (TV: "Superior Donuts") is 31. Actor Camren Bicondova is 24.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that reaches more than 1,800 retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013. 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!

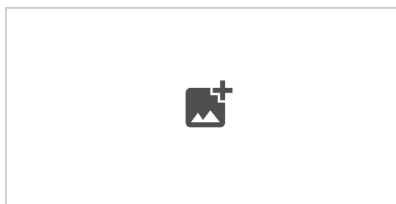
Here are some suggestions:

- **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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