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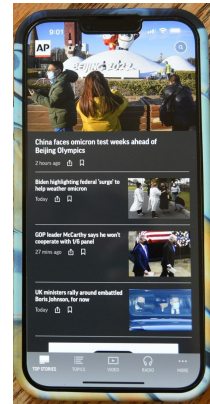
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Connecting

June 2, 2023

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[Top AP News](#)

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this June 2, 2023,

The launch of a unique artificial intelligence-powered search experience on AP Newsroom, the global news agency’s single platform for multimedia content, was announced Thursday – and it leads today’s Connecting.

The platform also now offers e-commerce capabilities, in addition to serving AP’s member news organizations and customers.

Associated Press political writer **Steve Peoples** made the news when covering a campaign stop Thursday in New Hampshire by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Republican candidate for the presidency.

When Peoples asked him why he wasn’t taking questions from voters at the event, DeSantis retorted, “Are you blind?”

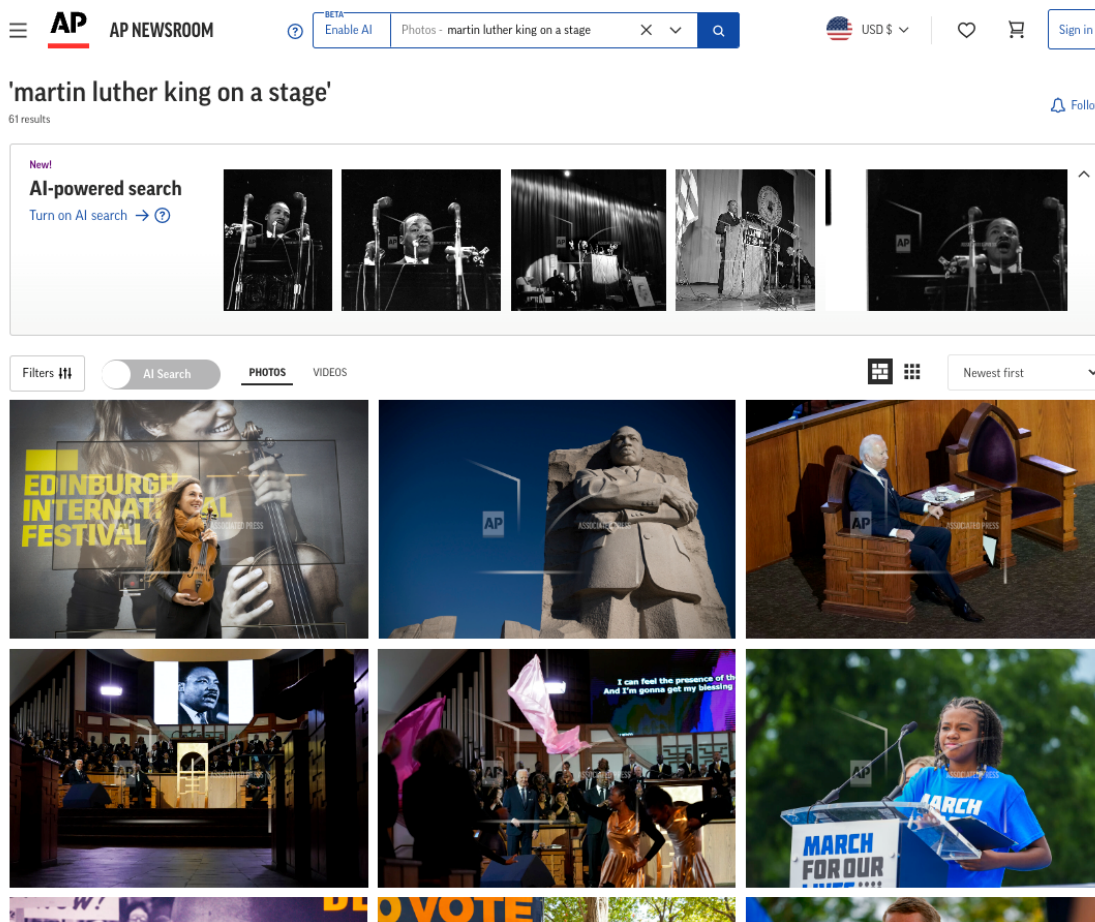
Read more in the story below.

And with the beginning days of the new month, we bring you the updated listing of colleagues in the Connecting 100/90s/80s Club. A welcome to the newest member, [Jerry Jackson](#), who celebrated his 80th birthday Thursday with a round of golf. Evidence is below.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy, live each day to your fullest.

Paul

Millions of AP images and video now available on single platform with AI-powered search



A screenshot of the AP Newsroom experience available to non-subscription customers. (AP Photo)

The Associated Press announced today (Thursday) the launch of a unique artificial intelligence-powered search experience on AP Newsroom, the global news agency's single platform for multimedia content.

The platform also now offers e-commerce capabilities, in addition to serving AP's member news organizations and customers.

AI-powered search makes it easier for users to find the best photos and videos that meet their search criteria. Rather than a traditional metadata search, the tool understands descriptive language and produces search results based on the description a user provides.

AI-powered search for video is capable of finding individual moments within an entire video clip, regardless of length.

The search is powered by an engine called NOMAD™ from MerlinOne, a software company with expertise in AI applications for visual objects.

“This is a real sea change in finding content within our ever-expanding archives,” said Paul Caluori, AP vice president of global products. “Suddenly we have the ability to find very specific things within images or videos – even if they have never been tagged or captioned. The addition of AI-powered search unlocks AP's unmatched visual archive, and new e-commerce capabilities make AP Newsroom a seamless experience for non-subscription customers.”

With easy-to-navigate self-serve licensing and pricing models, users can seamlessly license images and video, including for ad hoc usage.

AP Newsroom, which replaces the AP Images and AP Archive platforms, also offers organizational boards to save visual content for later use.

The AI-powered search feature is now available for non-subscription customers and will be available to traditional customers later this month.

AP adds new content every minute of every day from every corner of the world, making it an essential source of over 60 million photos for professional image buyers and commercial customers.

Visit newsroom.ap.org to browse and license AP images and video ranging from breaking news to sports, entertainment and more.

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

WATCH: DeSantis Rips into (AP) Reporter Who Accused Him of Dodging Voters: ‘Are You Blind?’

By JEFF ZYMERI
National Review

Florida governor Ron DeSantis snapped at an Associated Press reporter who asked him why he wasn't taking questions from voters at a New Hampshire event, retorting: "Are you blind?"

DeSantis is doing a sweep of the early Republican primary states after announcing his campaign on Twitter last week. After giving a speech in Laconia, New Hampshire Thursday morning, DeSantis declined to take questions from the podium, opting to mingle and take pictures with individual voters.

"Governor, how come you're not taking questions from voters?" asked an Associated Press reporter (Steve Peoples, pictured at right).



"People are coming up to me, talking to me. What are you talking about? Are you blind? Are you blind?" DeSantis responded angrily.

"No," replied the reporter.

"Okay, so people are coming up to me, talking to me. Whatever they want to talk to me about," DeSantis said in response.

Jonathan Allen, senior national politics reporter at NBC, [recorded the interaction](#).

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

Connecting mailbox

Jim Cour's sense of humor

[Michael Doan](#) - Yes, Jim did have a sense of humor! We became good friends in Las Vegas when he filled in for UPI's editor for a few weeks in the late 1960s. One day I got a phone call: "This is the general desk in New York. UPI just put out a story saying Howard Hughes died. Can you match it?" Then he laughed and hung up. I was not amused!

-0-

New Pulitzer rules for photographs

[Neal Ulevich](#) - The new guidelines sound a little vague. Exceptional news photos made under often harsh or deadly circumstances may raise questions - justifiably or not. Time will tell how well the guidelines hold up.

I cannot recall any Pulitzer photo category entries disqualified as border line or thoroughgoing hoaxes. Can other readers of this blog recall one or more?

On the word side, of course, there was the notorious Janet Cooke Pulitzer given, then revoked, for a wholly fictional piece in the Washington Post. As Gabriel Garcia Marquez said of Cooke, "It was unfair that she won the Pulitzer Prize, but also unfair that she didn't win the Nobel Prize in Literature." (Thanks, Wikipedia, for the wonderful quote).

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What is The AP?

[Henry Bradsher](#) - In yesterday's (Thursday) Connecting, there was a reference to The AP as a wire service, a not uncommon term.

Well, when it began in the 19th century to distribute news by telegraph wires, and continued doing so through much of the 20th century, it used wires. When I was in South Asia 60 years ago, however, subscribers received AP by radio from Tangiers; perhaps today many around the world still pick up radio transmissions.

In this electronic age, when computers distribute AP material, and when news reports and even color photographs can be sent through the ether wirelessly from almost anywhere, is it still a wire service?

I would contend that it is now more appropriate to call The AP a news agency.

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Welcome to the 80s, Jerry!



[Jerry Jackson](#) - Paul, any charge/qualifications, etc., to get into your 80/90/100 club?

This is our couples scramble group. For all my golfing friends, one of our goals this year is more birdie shots. So, we put into play a local sand trap rule, which states "in lieu of a sand wedge, one can choose to use a hand wedge". It's working well.

It's All About the Provenance

by Santiago Lyon For Commonplace

From 1989 to 1999 I was an award-winning conflict photographer for Reuters and The Associated Press news agencies where I repeatedly risked my life documenting violence around the world. During that period, I photographed eight wars on four continents, all major stories at the time. Among other adventures, I was taken prisoner by Saddam Hussein's army at the end of the First Gulf War, wounded in Sarajevo, and lost over a dozen journalist friends to violent deaths.

My commitment to truth and authenticity runs deep.

In those pre-internet, and mostly pre-digital, days, my images, and those of my photojournalist colleagues were published in newspapers and magazines across the globe and were accepted for what they were; genuine, fact-based photographs of world events. Our work was generally trusted, taken at face value, and rarely manipulated.

Fast forward to today when we are drenched in information constantly delivered to our multiple digital devices. Whether we interact on smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, or laptops, it is increasingly challenging to discern the source and veracity of all the content we consume.

Existent trust models between media outlets, (whether traditional news outlets or social platforms) and their customers are increasingly strained, especially as images and videos can be easily manipulated, separated from their sources, and widely shared, often with misleading context, or no context at all. Add to this an increasingly polarized and agenda-driven traditional and social media landscape and it is very easy for media consumers to get lost and confused.

Read more [here](#). Santiago Lyon is Head of Advocacy and Education - Content Authenticity Initiative with Adobe and former AP vice president and director of AP Photos.

My first assignment

[Norm Clarke](#) - My first AP assignment: interview the oldest surviving Major League player on his 100th birthday.

It was also my first day with The AP, March 15, 1973.

Cincinnati correspondent Bill Winter believed in the same approach as a big league manager — get the baptism of fire over with quickly.

He gave me a map and sent me to a Hyde Park extended care center in suburban Cincinnati.

Ralph Miller still had his fastball, at times.

"I could throw the ball fair thee well," he said proudly.

With a birthday cake next to him, along with a congratulatory telegram from baseball commissioner Bowie Kuhn, Miller recalled pitching for the Brooklyn Bridegrooms and Baltimore Orioles in 1899. They were American League teams.

He caught the attention of Brooklyn when he thrived at Fall River of the New England League. In 19 games he posted a 12-6 record with a 1.03 earned run average, going nine innings in all 17 of his starts.

Born in Cincinnati, he pitched his first big league game against his hometown Reds and won it 6-3. But his career was shortened by control problems.



Miller was in the nursing home because he had fallen and injured his back. He told me: "That was the first time I saw a doctor since 1918 when I got the flu."

After he offered me a piece of birthday cake, I asked him if he was going to have pizza.

"Pizza?" he responded. "I never heard of it."

Kuhn was honoring Miller for being the first major league player to live to his 100th birthday. When he died seven weeks later, he was believed to have been the last surviving 19th century Major Leaguer.

However, baseball researchers discovered in the 1990s that Charlie Emig, also a Cincinnati native, played one game for the Louisville Colonels of the National League in 1896. He died in 1975 in Oklahoma City.

New details of Jeffrey Epstein's death and the frantic aftermath revealed in records obtained by AP

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and MICHAEL BALSAMO

NEW YORK (AP) — Two weeks before ending his life, Jeffrey Epstein sat in the corner of his Manhattan jail cell with his hands over his ears, desperate to muffle the sound of a toilet that wouldn't stop running.

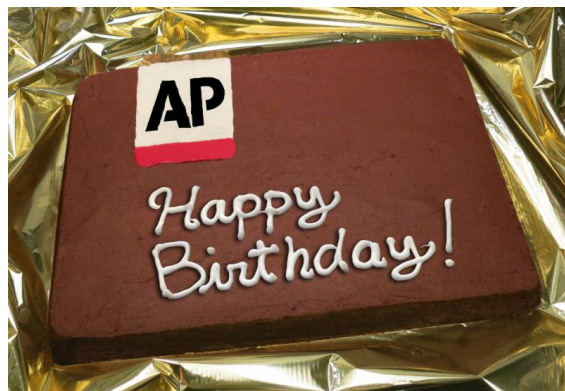
Epstein was agitated and unable to sleep, jail officials observed in records newly obtained by The Associated Press. He called himself a “coward” and complained he was struggling to adapt to life behind bars following his July 2019 arrest on federal sex trafficking and conspiracy charges — his life of luxury reduced to a concrete and steel cage.

The disgraced financier was under psychological observation at the time for a suicide attempt just days earlier that left his neck bruised and scraped. Yet, even after a 31-hour stint on suicide watch, Epstein insisted he wasn’t suicidal, telling a jail psychologist he had a “wonderful life” and “would be crazy” to end it.

On Aug. 10, 2019, Epstein was dead.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Catey Terry](#)

On Saturday to...

[Steve Elliott](#)

[Kathy Gannon](#)

[Rick Spratling](#)

On Sunday to...

[Sue Cross](#)

[Ricardo Reif](#)

Connecting '80s/'90s/100 Club

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Connecting publishes this list at the beginning of each month. If you are qualified for one of the age groups and would like to be listed, drop me a note. Please let me know of any errors.)

100s:

Fred Hoffman

90s:

Norm Abelson

Malcolm Barr

Henry Bradsher

Hal Buell

Joseph Carter

Albert Habhab

George Hanna

Hoyt Harwell

Gene Herrick

Gene Lahammer

Joe McGowan

Charlie Monzella

Bob Petsche

Arlon Southall

Sal Veder

Doris Webster

Joe Young

Arnold Zeitlin

80s:

Hank Ackerman
Paul Albright
Rachel Ambrose
Peter Arnett
Harry Atkins
Frank Aukofer
Jim Bagby
Myron Belkind
Ed Bell
Dan Berger
Adolphe Bernotas
Brian Bland
Lou Boccardi
Hal Bock
William Roy Bolch Jr.
Ed Breen
Ben Brown
Charles Bruce
Ford Burkhart
Harry Cabluck
Sibby Christensen
Shirley Christian
Norm Clarke
Steve Crowley
Don Dashiell
Bob Daugherty
Mike Doan
Bob Dobkin
Otto Doelling
Phil Dopoulos
John Eagan
Claude Erbsen
Mike Feinsilber
Dodi Fromson
Joe Galu
Bill Gillen

Steve Graham
Bob Greene
Jerry Harkavy
Paul Harrington
Chick Harrity
Merrill Hartson
Monte Hayes
Jerry Jackson
Doug Kienitz
Dean Lee
Pierce Lehmbeck
Warren Lerude
Edie Lederer
Carl Leubsdorf
Bruce Lowitt
David Liu
Jim Luther
Larry Margasak
John Marlow
Dave Mazzarella
Chuck McFadden
Yvette Mercourt
Reid Miller
Karren Mills
Peggy Mooney
Bill Morrissey
Harry Moskos
Ron Mulnix
Bruce Nathan
Greg Nokes
Larry Paladino
Jay Perkins
Lyle Price
Charles Richards
Bruce Richardson
Denis Searles
Richard Shafer

Susanne Shaw
Mike Short
Victor Simpson
Rick Spratling
Ed Staats
Karol Stonger
Mark Thayer
Marty Thompson
Hilmi Toros
Kernan Turner
Jeffrey Ulbrich
Jack Walker
Mike Waller
Bob Walsh
Dean Wariner
Don Waters
Lew Wheaton
Jeff Williams
Byron Yake
Johnny Yost
Kent Zimmerman

Stories of interest

Journalists at country's largest newspaper chain will walk off the job (Washington Post)

By Elahe Izadi

Journalists for the largest newspaper chain in the country will walk off the job next week, in a series of strikes staged in part to protest the leadership of the company's chief executive.

Hundreds of staffers for 24 Gannett newspapers, including the Arizona Republic, Austin American-Statesman and the Palm Beach Post, say they will not report to work for a day or two starting Monday, forfeiting pay and forgoing assignments ranging from city council meetings to high school sports championship games. At some papers, the strikes begin Tuesday.

Their aim, they say, is to call attention to budget cuts and put pressure on shareholders, who are expected to take up the issue of executive pay at a meeting Monday. Demonstrating journalists want shareholders to take a no-confidence vote against CEO Mike Reed, whom they fault for the company's financial struggles.

In a financial filing, the NewsGuild — the union representing more than 50 Gannett newsrooms — writes that Reed has “failed shareholders,” arguing that other newspaper companies are faring better.

“[Journalists] need support and resources to make sure our communities have the local news needed to keep our democracy thriving,” Jon Schleuss, NewsGuild president, said in a statement.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac, Sibby Christensen, Valerie Komor.

-0-

Undaunted: the untold story of women in American journalism (Guardian)

By VERONICA ESPOSITO

"Getting the cold call email from him was crazy," said author and journalist Brooke Kroeger, telling me about how her latest project, *Undaunted* – which recounts the two-century-long story of women in journalism – originated with a phone call from a male editor. "I had some idea of who he was, I was aware of him. I knew he was senior, and I looked him up pretty quick."

The man in question was Jonathan Segal, a vice-president at Knopf who has published seven books that went on to receive Pulitzer prizes. He was offering Kroeger the assignment of a lifetime. Segal had determined that there was no good trade book available covering the history of women in journalism in the United States, and he was hoping Kroeger would be willing to write it.

"He was looking for a history of women in journalism but couldn't find one, and he thought this book should exist," said Kroeger. "You don't get invitations like that all the time. I mean, this is just not my karma at all."

Kroeger shared that the only comparable non-academic title she could find was 1936's *Ladies of the Press* by Ishbel Ross, a novelist and author of non-fiction books known for bringing to prominence unsung women like Elizabeth Blackwell, who is remembered as the first woman in the US to receive a medical degree. For nearly 100 years, no new book for a wide audience had been published documenting the contributions of women to journalism. It was certainly time for an update, especially considering that, while Ross's *Ladies* as a substantial accomplishment, the work can be critiqued for, among other things, not including a single Black woman among the 300 journalists that it celebrates.

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

-0-

Dev Shah wins the Scripps National Spelling Bee on the word 'psammophile' (AP)

By BEN NUCKOLS

OXON HILL, Md. (AP) — Fifteen months ago, Dev Shah spent a miserable five hours spelling outdoors in chilly, windy, damp conditions at a supersize regional competition in Orlando, Florida, only to fall short of his dream of returning to the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

“Despondent is the right word,” Dev said. “I just didn’t know if I wanted to keep continuing.”

Look at him now.

Soft-spoken but brimming with confidence, Dev asked precise questions about obscure Greek roots, rushed through his second-to-last word and rolled to the National Spelling Bee title Thursday night.

Dev, a 14-year-old from Largo, Florida, in the Tampa Bay area, first competed at the national bee in 2019, then had his spelling career interrupted. The 2020 bee was canceled because of COVID-19, and in the mostly virtual 2021 bee, he didn’t make it to the in-person finals, held in his home state on ESPN’s campus at Walt Disney World.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - June 2, 2023



Today is Friday, June 2, the 153rd day of 2023. There are 212 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight

On June 2, 1997, Timothy McVeigh was convicted of murder and conspiracy in the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City that killed 168 people. (McVeigh was executed in June 2001.)

On this date

In 1924, Congress passed, and President Calvin Coolidge signed, a measure guaranteeing full American citizenship for all Native Americans born within U.S. territorial limits.

In 1941, baseball's "Iron Horse," Lou Gehrig, died in New York of a degenerative disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; he was 37.

In 1953, the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II took place in London's Westminster Abbey, 16 months after the death of her father, King George VI.

In 1962, Soviet forces opened fire on striking workers in the Russian city of Novocherkassk; a retired general in 1989 put the death toll at 22 to 24.

In 1966, U.S. space probe Surveyor 1 landed on the moon and began transmitting detailed photographs of the lunar surface.

In 1979, Pope John Paul II arrived in his native Poland on the first visit by a pope to a Communist country.

In 1981, the Japanese video arcade game "Donkey Kong" was released by Nintendo.

In 1999, South Africans went to the polls in their second post-apartheid election, giving the African National Congress a decisive victory; retiring president Nelson Mandela was succeeded by Thabo Mbeki.

In 2011, a judge in Placerville, California, sentenced serial sex offender Phillip Garrido to life in prison for kidnapping and raping Jaycee Dugard; Garrido's wife, Nancy, received a decades-long sentence.

In 2016, autopsy results showed superstar musician Prince died of an accidental overdose of fentanyl, a powerful opioid painkiller.

In 2020, defying curfews, protesters streamed back into the nation's streets, hours after President Donald Trump urged governors to put down the violence set off by the death of George Floyd. Police said four officers were hit by gunfire after protests in St. Louis that began peacefully became violent.

Ten years ago: Egypt's highest court ruled that the nation's interim parliament was illegally elected, though it stopped short of dissolving the chamber immediately. Indiana Pacers center Roy Hibbert was fined \$75,000 by the NBA for using a gay slur and profanity during his news conference after Game 6 of the Eastern Conference finals; Hibbert apologized for the comments.

Five years ago: The number of homes destroyed reached 80 in an eruption of Hawaii's Kilauea Volcano. (The eruption would eventually destroy more than 700 homes.) Bare-knuckle boxing matches took place in front of 2,000 rowdy fans at a hockey rink in Cheyenne, Wyoming; the event, promoted as the first legal, regulated and sanctioned bare-knuckle fight event in U.S. history, featured 10 bouts and was viewed by tens of thousands via pay-per-view. In England, Masar beat odds-on favorite Saxon Warrior to win horse racing's Epsom Derby.

One year ago: After a school shooting in Uvalde, Texas that killed 19 students and two teachers, President Joe Biden delivered an address to the nation about the latest round of mass shootings in an attempt to increase the pressure on Congress to pass stricter gun limits after such efforts failed in the wake of past violence. A man who blamed his surgeon for continuing pain after a recent back operation bought an AR-style rifle and opened fire hours later at a Tulsa, Oklahoma medical office, killing the doctor and three other people in an attack that ended with him taking his own life. Queen Elizabeth II drew wild cheers from a crowd of tens of thousands as she carefully stepped on to the Buckingham Palace balcony at the start of four days of celebrations of her 70 years on the throne. (The queen's reign would end with her death three months later).

Today's Birthdays: Actor Ron Ely is 85. Filmmaker and movie historian Kevin Brownlow is 85. Actor Stacy Keach is 82. Actor Charles Haid is 80. R&B singer Chubby Tavares (Tavares) is 79. Movie director Lasse Hallstrom is 77. Actor Jerry Mathers is 75. Actor Joanna Gleason is 73. NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman is 71. Actor Dennis Haysbert is 69. Comedian Dana Carvey is 68. Actor Gary Grimes is 68. Pop musician Michael Steele is 68. Rock singer Tony Hadley (Spandau Ballet) is 63. Actor Liam Cunningham is 62. Actor Navid Negahban is 59. Singer Merril Bainbridge is 55. TV personality-producer Andy Cohen ("The Real Housewives" TV franchise) is 55. Rapper B-Real (Cypress Hill) is 53. Actor Paula Cale is 53. Actor Anthony Montgomery is 52. Actor-comedian Wayne Brady is 51. Actor Wentworth Miller is 51. Rock musician Tim Rice-Oxley (Keane) is 47. Actor Zachary Quinto is 46. Actor Dominic Cooper is 45. Actor Nikki Cox is 45. Actor Justin Long is 45. Actor Deon Richmond is 45. Actor Morena Baccarin is 44. R&B singer Irish Grinstead (702) is 43. Rock musician Fabrizio Moretti (The Strokes) is 43. Olympic gold medal soccer player Abby Wambach is 43. Singer-songwriter ZZ Ward is 37. Rapper/actor Awkwafina is 35. Actor Brittany Curran is 33. Actor Sterling Beaumon is 28.

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.

Paul Stevens

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