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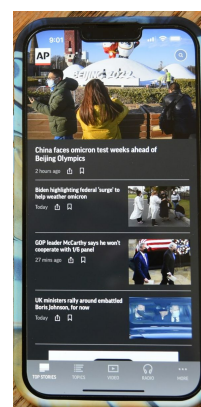
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# Connecting

July 11, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this July 11, 2023,

Besides sharing a touching obituary on her father **Fred Hoffman**, longtime AP Pentagon reporter and later a Pentagon spokesman, for Monday's Connecting, our colleague **Lisa Hoffman** sent me the following:

“Please also know you and so many of his AP cronies were in his thoughts in his last weeks. He was having great fun coming up with nicknames for many. Because his macular degeneration left him unable to legibly write, he was in the process of dictating them to me until he ran out of energy and time.

“Attached is the list of those he had dubbed and some of those he hoped to. His plan was for me to send them to you, Paul, with his thanks for your kindness through the years.”

**To Paul Stevens, a true letter of love from an old hardback pro, in the days of**

Smooth John Hightower  
Nightly wisdom by Jim Marlowe,  
Signal on-call Art Edson,  
Broadway Barry Schweid  
Herr Horst Faas  
After-lunch Daiquiri Bill Beale  
Hugh Mulligan  
Frank Cormier  
Fran Lewin  
Harry Rosenthal  
Bill Arbogast  
Jim Polk  
Harkinson

We lead today's issue with a delightful take by our colleague **Dan Perry** on the age-old generational differences in what constitutes good music. Dan and his daughters beg to differ on the subject – and I am guessing you've experienced the same thing. Share your story, please.

The buzz in the world of newspapering is the New York Times' decision to shut down its sports department and provide sports through The Athletic, a web site it acquired last year. It's the lead item in Stories of Interest and we would welcome your thoughts on what one writer called a "day of infamy" for sports journalism.

And in today's Final Word, our neighbors **Sarah and Steve Hendren** arrived in Vermont, where they escape the heat and storms of the Midwest, just in time to witness and cope with catastrophic flooding in the state. Got your own experiences to share? Please send along.

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

Paul

**You're All I've Got Tonight**  
*Will there ever again be a widely loved band?*



Dan with daughters and wife in Mallorca recently.

By [DAN PERRY](#)

For years I have tormented my daughters with good music — meaning my music of course — whenever they were forced to be with me in the car. By that I mean songs that are from the '60s to the '90s, and the few contemporary tunes that sound as if they might be. They suffered in silence (except for the music itself) when they were small.

As the music of their own generation degenerated, I found myself cast as the middle-aged scold who disdains contemporary sounds. It's not a good look but I embraced it. When it comes to these things, you go with your heart. (The wallet follows: I owned hundreds of CDs and thousands of streamed songs, and I loved them all and almost wished I could pay more, but none of that matters now. There is no player.)

I thought I was nearing a breakthrough when the radio played "Us and Them" from Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon." I recited for my youngest its lyrics, a lamentation of inequality as powerful now as ever it was, with a melody to match: Down and out / It can't be helped that there's a lot of it about / With, without / And who'll deny it's what the fighting's all about?

"This breathtaking song is from 50 years ago," I said. "Just listen! Do you honestly think any of the new 'music' will be heard by anyone in 50 years' time? Or even 5???"

I know that music is an infinity and there is some decent new material and that almost nothing can achieve scale today because there are a million platforms and massive

atomization and no one can agree on anything. But it doesn't change my view. This issue does not bring out the best in me, I fear.

My daughter agreed that nothing contemporary had staying power like Pink Floyd, but shockingly did not seem to care. It's just fun and games for the new generation — just grist for the robo-world of TikTok, with its jerky movements, distorted audio and idiotically pursed lips.

I began to suspect something pathological in my passion for my music. Was I a Classic Rock Supremacist? That cannot be good. World-weary skeptics say one always prefers the music of one's youth, which would cheapen the passion. Maybe so, I reply, but it doesn't make me wrong: a broken clock is still right twice a day. And I don't see the passion for today's music even in the youth; it's more like indifferent acquiescence.

Is it all just a matter of natural cycles and of popular taste — or could my musical hubris be defended?

"It can be defended," said a musicologist I met at a dinner. "Some music is superior, and some is inferior." I'm not easily excitable, but this got me about as fired up as I'd ever been at a dinner. I probed how science might help me make my daughters understand. Is it the complexity of the meter, or something of that nature? "No!" the musicologist scoffed. "Some stuff just obviously sucks."

It is amazing what insights arrive when you resist the urge to overthink.

I know this: I reject the allegation that all of us will eventually become nostalgists for the culture of our youth. In my case, for example, I am a major appreciator of recent decades' TV, which I believe is in a golden age of sorts driven initially by premium cable and alive and kicking on streaming today. It far outshines the TV of my youth.

Indeed, it may be that some forms of art simply have their periods. If the universe of quality popular music has played itself out, it wouldn't be the first. As a case in point, few scour streaming radio in search of the latest chamber music. If you like it you go back to the classics, from centuries ago. There is no disaster in that, and no disgrace in liking mainly Bach, or Mozart's operas, or guoyue from China. It doesn't mean you're old (not that here would be anything wrong with that).

It's not just music. Consider the sublime novels of a century or more ago. I've read pretty much everything by Graham Greene, Stefan Zweig, Somerset Maugham, Guy de Maupassant, Vladimir Nabokov and F. Scott Fitzgerald. What wonderful stories! What elegant prose! There are some valiant efforts these days — Jean Hanff Korelitz, Alaa Aswany, Ian McEwan and Tom Rachman come to mind — and they will keep you turning the page while manifesting something beyond the airport read. But it's not the same. The essential stories of the human condition may have been told.

As for music, it is possible that some forms of music have more staying power and wider appeal over not just space but time. Just as some genres of literature have more staying power than others, so perhaps does classic rock stand out as something that will age unusually well.

I shared my struggles with Howard Whitman, a high school chum whom I caught up with in Philadelphia a while back. In early days, when I had a high school TV show called "Pulse," Howard agreed to promote it, earning my everlasting appreciation.

An upstanding Jewish fellow who looks like an accountant now, he has a day job of that sort. But by night Howard's a musician on a mission; the force is very strong in him. Howard agreed that the music of our youth was a completely different beast. Not all of it was good, but some of it was deeply great, in ways that don't exist today.

Just like classical music had its day and ragtime had its time, so it was with classic rock, Howard said. It lived and then it died, and then other things were born. Not necessarily good or bad; just different. (But yes, probably not as good.)

Howard's tale is instructive. He has his own tunes, and they're fine without a doubt. But people are no more interested in adding to the pantheon of classic rock than in carving Donald Trump onto Mount Rushmore. Some newish acts manage to squeeze in — Arcade Fire and The Black Keys for a while — but that bar is very high.

People do love live music, though. And they want to see The Beatles, the Stones, Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, Elvis. Also the Cars, whose eponymous debut album is one of my favorites of all time. You have not lived until you've heard "Just What I Needed," "Moving In Stereo," and, of course, "You're All I've Got Tonight." So Howard for years dressed up as the late Cars frontman Ric Ocasek and played to sold-out bars. Nowadays he does tributes to Kansas and Styx.

I told him I loved that my buddy led a cover band. Howard almost choked on his drink, then set me straight: "Tribute bands" are not to be confused with cover bands that typically play the songs of various artists to "get people to dance and buy more drinks." Tribute bands generally play the music of a single band, though sometimes they're paying tribute to a genre. In any case they are "high concept," he clarified.

Howard's theory is that this is the great music of the recent past, and English makes it global, and people want to experience it the way they might go to the philharmonic. With classical music they don't need a Beethoven impressionist up there — but since classic rock combined composition with performance, here an acting element applies.

"A Rolling Stones tribute will probably have a Mick Jagger impersonator prancing around," Howard said. "U2 tributes will have a singer doing his best Bono up front. An Ozzy Osbourne tribute band better have a pretty authentic Ozzy up there."

It's not the same experience, but it's close enough, and the hunger for it supports my point. There will never be a tribute band for what the industry produces today.

Apparently these tribute bands, which trace themselves to the late 70s' Beatlemania show on Broadway, are entering their own golden age. For those despondent about the times we live in, which may be the last majority opinion standing, they are a reminder of days that might not have been better, but bequeathed iconic music.

Howard said that with so many of the greats are dead or dying, tribute bands will flower all the more. So it's official now: Howard and his tribute bands are all we've got. If I'm lucky, I'll live to see my daughters understand.

Click [here](#) for link to Dan's blog.

## Memories of Fred Hoffman

The AP wire story that moved Monday:

### Longtime AP Pentagon reporter Fred Hoffman, who was lauded for his Vietnam coverage, dies at 100



Photo by Chris Connell

**BY LOLITA C. BALDOR AND TARA COPP**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fred S. Hoffman, a longtime Associated Press reporter who covered the Defense Department for more than two decades and was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for an investigation into the black market in Vietnam has died. Hoffman was 100.

Well known within the Pentagon, Hoffman was recalled as a tough, enterprising, ethical and tireless reporter who spent nearly 40 years in the news business, including 36 with the AP. After retiring from the AP, he served as the chief spokesman and policy adviser to Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

According to his daughter Lisa Hoffman, he died of melanoma at at his home in Alexandria, Virginia, on June 24. She said he “always marveled at his lifelong good luck and left at peace, with no regrets.”

Read more [here](#).

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**Chris Connell** - It was a rite of passage for newcomers to the Washington bureau working the overnight to have to rouse Fred at 11 p.m. to match some story in the Post or Times. He was always angry as a bear -- and then would call back 10-15 minutes later with a well-sourced matcher. He left AP abruptly. It was a privilege to give him his due in that Connecting profile a few years back.

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**Bob Dobkin** - Though it seems like yesterday, it was in 1970 when Washington Buro Chief Marv Arrowsmith offered me the Justice Department beat as a promotion from the Washington Regional Staff. I didn't want to sound ungrateful, but I asked if anything else was available. He said, “the Pentagon, but you'll have to work with Fred Hoffman.” I didn't see that as a problem despite Fred's well-founded reputation as an irascible curmudgeon who, to some overnight editors, could be difficult to get along. Besides, what could be more interesting than covering the Defense beat during wartime?

Fred proved a delight to work with and a great teacher. At nearly twice my age he became almost a father figure to me. We worked as a team for three years, covering the daily briefings, alternating writing the AMs and PM cycles, and developing our own stories. He worked tirelessly and seemed to know more about the Pentagon than the staff assigned there. Bob Schieffer, CBS News' Pentagon correspondent at the time, once told me he knew something was up when he spotted Fred or I scurrying through the corridors obviously chasing a story.

Despite his years of experience, I marveled at Fred's ability to always maintain the same energy level as a rookie reporter would in nailing a story. Though Fred never shared his sources nor did I expect him to, he freely offered his guidance when sought and helped me to become a better reporter.

Friday afternoons in the Pentagon press room often gave us time to share past experiences and family stories. With Fred, he couldn't say enough about his cherished life with Norma, his wife, and daughter Lisa. May you rest in peace, Fred.

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**Carl P. Leubsdorf** - I was very sorry to read in Monday's Connecting of Fred Hoffman's death.

As I wrote Lisa, I cherish my long-ago AP days and the privilege I had to work with such AP stars as Fred, Barry Schweid, Frank Cormier and Walter Mears.

When I was an editor on the Overnight Desk, I could always count on Fred to submit clean, accurate copy.

In life, as in work, his long life served as a role model for those of us hoping to match his achievement of completing a full century.

And I should note that his daughter, Lisa, later an excellent journalist herself, spent at least one summer working for the AP as an intern on Capitol Hill.

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[Lisa Hoffman](#) - A couple more little-known anecdotes.

Dad covered the 1950-51 Kefauver organized crime hearings, during which he received an urgent summons from one of the Mob's top bosses who wanted to see him. Dad headed to the guy's hotel room, wondering if he would end up sleeping with the fishes. Instead, the boss wanted to thank him for the fairness of his stories.

Though known for his honesty and law-abiding nature, few know that worked with the underground Zionist paramilitary organization Haganah to help smuggle arms to Palestine after the birth of Israel, recruiting ships willing to illegally run guns to Israel's defenders,

## I will miss Henry Kamm



[Neal Ulevich](#) - Henry Kamm, who died Monday at 98, was one of my heroes in journalism, a reporter whose writing of the Cambodian catastrophe was always laid heavy with the moral focus of a man who had himself been a refugee and survivor of unspeakable horror.



In Southeast Asia, I would encounter him often in the stories of the day, Laos, Cambodia, Burma. His clear journalistic vision and a quiet sense of humor made such chance meetings memorable.

This snapshot from February 1978 shows Henry Kamm and U Sein Win in Rangood, at lunch. U Sein Win was a stringer for both AP and the New York Times.

## Who coined the term 'Lambeau Leap'?



**By Cliff Christl**  
Green Bay Packers team historian

*Jim from Madison, WI*

*Here's a question that I can't find an answer to anywhere. Who coined the term "Lambeau Leap"?*

I've asked around the office. I sent an email to NFL Films to see if one of its announcers might have used the term, maybe on a highlight video. I've searched on newspapers.com and looked elsewhere and can't give you a definitive answer.

But my educated guess would be that Associated Press sportswriter Arnie Stapleton might be the answer to your question.

In fact, the more research I did, the more convinced I became that Stapleton, who covered the Packers as Wisconsin's AP sports editor from 1993-2005, was likely, at the very least, to have been the first one to use the term "Lambeau Leap" in print. Coincidentally, Stapleton's first game assignment after taking the job in Wisconsin was

the day of LeRoy Butler's first leap, although that wasn't when Stapleton wrote those words for the first time. Currently, Stapleton is the AP's pro football writer in Denver.

Read more [here](#).

## News Geezers meet up



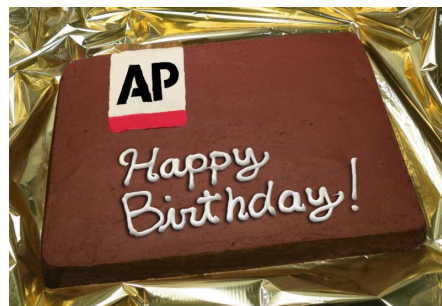
Rachel Eberle Ambrose and Brian Bland, standing, and Natalie Windsor, seated. All AP retirees who got together again Saturday at a News Geezers gathering in North Hollywood, Ca. Photo by Susan Helm.

# The MSG Sphere



**Norm Clarke** - Madison Square Garden's Sphere gave a 4th of July glimpse of what the \$2 billion spectacle will offer when it makes its debut as a concert venue this fall. The indoor show will feature large screens and scents to heighten the entertainment experience. It is the first of many planned around the world.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



**Kelly Kissel**

## Stories of interest

## ***The New York Times disbands sports department and will rely on coverage from The Athletic*** (AP)

BY MICHELLE CHAPMAN

The New York Times is disbanding its sports department and will rely on coverage from The Athletic, a website it acquired last year for \$550 million.

The decision impacts more than 35 people in the sports department, according to The New York Times. Journalists on the sports desk will move to other roles within the newsroom and no layoffs are planned.

“Though we know this decision will be disappointing to some, we believe it is the right one for readers and will allow us to maximize the respective strengths of The Times’s and The Athletic’s newsrooms,” New York Times Co. Chairman A.G. Sulzberger and CEO Meredith Kopit Levien wrote Monday in a letter to staff.

They say sports coverage will be expanded under the shift.

“Under our plan, the digital homepage, newsletters, social feeds, the sports landing page and the print section will draw from even more of the approximately 150 stories The Athletic produces each day chronicling leagues, teams and players across the United States and around the globe,” they wrote.

Sports writers for The New York Times have won several Pulitzer Prizes over the years, including Arthur Daley in 1956 in the column, “Sports of the Times;” Walter Wellesley (Red) Smith in 1976 for commentary and Dave Anderson in 1981 for commentary.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

Click [here](#) for New York Times story. Shared by Adolphe Bernotas, Dennis Conrad, Len Iwanski, Sibby Christensen, Peggy Walsh, Richard Chady, Doug Pizac.

Click [here](#) for Poynter story - Opinion | We should’ve seen it coming: The New York Times dismantles its sports department.

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## ***Nonprofit trust buying Press Herald, other Maine newspapers in landmark deal*** (Portland Press Herald)

By RACHEL OHM

A national nonprofit plans to take over ownership of five of Maine’s six daily newspapers as part of a landmark deal that could help preserve local news across the state.

The National Trust for Local News has entered into an agreement to purchase the Portland Press Herald and all of the other assets of Masthead Maine, with a closing date in late July, Reade Brower, owner of Masthead Maine, and Elizabeth Hansen Shapiro, chief executive officer and co-founder of the trust, said in interviews Monday.

“This is the most independent route I think I could have taken that maintains both the independence of the press and continuity for staff and readers,” Brower said. “I believe they want to continue to run this as a sustainable business, which I like, and I don’t believe they will try and drain resources, which I like.”

Neither Brower nor Hansen Shapiro would disclose the sale price, saying terms of the deal are confidential.

Besides the Press Herald, the deal includes the Sun Journal in Lewiston, the Kennebec Journal in Augusta, the Morning Sentinel in Waterville, the Times Record in Brunswick and 17 weekly papers in southern and western Maine, including the Forecaster group.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sonya Zalubowski.

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## ***Opinion / Northwestern’s student newspaper broke a blockbuster national story*** (Poynter)

**By: Tom Jones**

Some of the best reporting anywhere over the weekend was published by a college newspaper.

The Daily Northwestern — the student newspaper of Northwestern University — and reporters Nicole Markus, Alyce Brown, Cole Reynolds, and Divya Bhardwaj published a disturbing story about the university’s football program: “Former NU football player details hazing allegations after coach suspension.”

A former player told The Daily Northwestern about hazing within the program that included coerced sexual acts. They spoke to another player who confirmed the story. In addition, the player said head coach Pat Fitzgerald might have known about the hazing. Fitzgerald was originally serving a two-week suspension after a whistleblower prompted a six-month investigation by the school.

But following the story by The Daily Northwestern, the university’s president, Michael Schill, sent a letter to the Northwestern community that said he “may have erred in weighing the appropriate sanction.”

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

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## Ex-CNN reporter Saima Mohsin suing network for racial discrimination, unfair dismissal (New York Post)

By Shannon Thaler

A former CNN reporter is suing the network for unfair dismissal and racial discrimination after an assignment in Israel that she claims left her with an “invisible disability.”

Saima Mohsin, 46, was reporting from Jerusalem on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in 2014 when her cameraman ran over her left foot, causing such severe tissue damage that the journalist struggled to sit, stand, walk or work full-time, according to the Guardian.

She allegedly asked for alternative assignments and support for rehab, but CNN refused.

And when Mohsin asked for a presenting role that reduced the amount of time spent traveling, she claims she was told: “You don’t have the look we are looking for.”

Her contract was terminated three years later, as per the Guardian.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

## The Final Word

*A soggy Vermont adventure*



**Steve Hendren** - Well Paul, we like to retreat from the Midwest heat and storms this time of year and relax for several months in our little barn in the peaceful Green Mountains of Vermont.

But this year it has rained every day since we arrived a week and a half ago. And today the soggy soil was no match for the heaviest rains yet. As you know, New England is experiencing torrential rainfall rivaling that of Tropical Storm Irene in 2011.

Against the advice of the governor and anyone with half a brain, Sarah and I ventured out this afternoon in an attempt to get several of my medications refilled since we may be stranded here for some time. Our half-mile-long driveway connects to a dirt road that follows Broad Brook for several miles as it flows towards the Ottauqueche River west of Woodstock, VT. Last year Broad Brook was barely a trickle. This is what it looked like today...





We didn't get far in our ill-conceived journey, having to turn around near Bridgewater, just west of Woodstock, due to water over US Highway 4, the main route across central Vermont. As we drove back up the several miles of Hale Hollow Rd, conditions had deteriorated further. This portion of the road was quite passable on our way out

but a few minutes later it was nearly too much for our Subaru Outback. Here's how it looked this evening...



As we got closer to our barn we found that one of our low lying culverts had been over run, blocking our path...



In a moment of rare wisdom, I suggested we not try to drive through the roughly 8" deep water but instead we walked the last tenth of a mile to the barn. Here's what was hidden underneath all that water as it receded this evening...



## Today in History - July 11, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, July 11, the 192nd day of 2023. There are 173 days left in the year.

### ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

On July 11, 1804, Vice President Aaron Burr mortally wounded former Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton during a pistol duel in Weehawken, NJ. (Hamilton died the next day.)

### On this date

1798 — The US Marine Corps was formally re-established by a congressional act that also created the US Marine Band.

1859 — Big Ben, the great bell inside the famous London clock tower, chimed for the first time.

1864 — Confederate forces led by General Jubal Early began an abortive invasion of Washington, turning back the next day.

1914 — Babe Ruth made his Major League baseball debut, pitching the Boston Red Sox to a 4-3 victory over Cleveland.

1955 — The US Air Force Academy swore in its first class of cadets at its temporary quarters at Lowry Air Force Base in Colorado.

1972 — The World Chess Championship opened as grandmasters Bobby Fischer of the United States and defending champion Boris Spassky of the Soviet Union began play in Reykjavik, Iceland. (Fischer won after 21 games.)

1979 — The abandoned US space station Skylab made a spectacular return to Earth, burning up in the atmosphere and showering debris over the Indian Ocean and Australia.

1989 — Actor and director Laurence Olivier died in Steyning, West Sussex, England, at age 82.

1991 — A Nigeria Airways DC-8 carrying Muslim pilgrims crashed at the Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, international airport, killing all 261 people on board.

1995 — The UN-designated “safe haven” of Srebrenica in Bosnia-Herzegovina fell to Bosnian Serb forces, who then carried out the killings of more than 8,000 Muslim men and boys.

2006 — Eight bombs hit a commuter rail network during evening rush hour in Mumbai, India, killing more than 200 people.

2020 — President Donald Trump wore a mask during a visit to a military hospital; it was the first time he had been seen in public with one.

Ten years ago — In a potential setback for George Zimmerman, the jury at the neighborhood watch captain’s second-degree murder trial in Sanford, Florida, was given the option of convicting him on the lesser charge of manslaughter in the shooting of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin. (Zimmerman ended up being acquitted of all charges.) Tens of thousands of workers across Brazil walked off their jobs in a mostly peaceful nationwide strike, demanding better working conditions and improved public services in Latin America’s largest nation.

Five years ago — At a NATO summit in Brussels, President Donald Trump declared that a gas pipeline venture had left Germany’s government “captive to Russia,” and questioned the necessity of the NATO alliance. John Schnatter, the founder of Papa John’s, resigned as chairman of the board of the pizza chain, and apologized for using a racial slur during a conference call in May.

One year ago — President Joe Biden revealed the first image from NASA's new space telescope, the farthest humanity had ever seen in both time and distance, closer to the dawn of the universe and the edge of the cosmos. Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree expanding a fast-track procedure to give Russian citizenship to all Ukrainians, part of an effort to expand Moscow's influence in war-torn Ukraine.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS - Actor Susan Seaforth Hayes is 80. Singer Jeff Hanna (Nitty Gritty Dirt Band) is 76. Ventriloquist-actor Jay Johnson is 74. Actor Bruce McGill is 73. Actor Stephen Lang is 71. Actor Mindy Sterling is 70. Actor Sela Ward is 67. Reggae singer Michael Rose (Black Uhuru) is 66. Singer Peter Murphy is 66. Actor Mark Lester is 65. Jazz musician Kirk Whalum is 65. Singer Suzanne Vega is 64. Rock guitarist Richie Sambora (Bon Jovi) is 64. Actor Lisa Rinna is 60. Rock musician Scott Shriner (Weezer) is 58. Actor Debbe Dunning is 57. Actor Greg Grunberg is 57. Wildlife expert Jeff Corwin is 56. Actor Justin Chambers is 53. Actor Leisha Hailey is 52. Actor Michael Rosenbaum is 51. Pop-rock singer Andrew Bird is 50. Country singer Scotty Emerick is 50. Rapper Lil' Kim is 49. US Education Secretary Miguel Cardona is 48. Actor Jon Wellner is 48. Rapper Lil' Zane is 42. Pop-jazz singer-musician Peter Cincotti is 40. Actor Serinda Swan is 39. Actor Robert Adamson is 38. Actor David Henrie is 34. Actor Connor Paolo is 33. Former tennis player Caroline Wozniacki is 33. R&B/pop singer Alessia Cara is 27.

## 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!

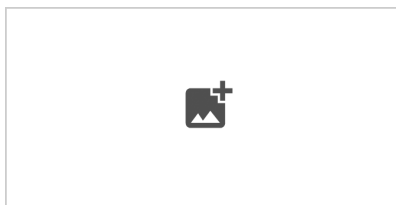
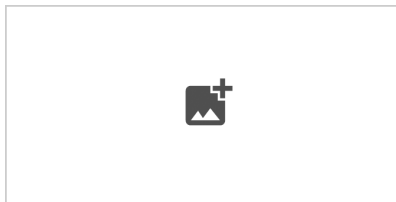
Here are some suggestions:

- **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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