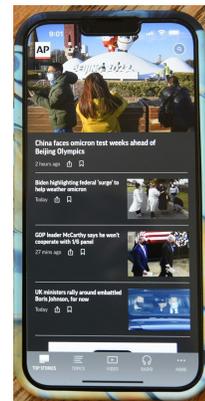


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# Connecting

Aug. 30, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Aug. 30, 2023,

It was the morning after my father died in 2013 when our home phone rang.

“Hello, is this Paul Stevens?” said the voice on the other end of the line. “This is **Ogden Nutting** and I wanted to let you know how much we respected your father over his years of service to The Messenger, and how sorry we are for your loss.”

I never forgot that kindness – and so it was with personal regret that I learned of Nutting’s death last Friday – covered in an AP story in today’s Stories of Interest. He was the longtime publisher of Ogden Newspapers Inc., which owns The Messenger in Fort Dodge, Iowa, where my dad **Walter B. Stevens** worked as editor for a half century.

We had another tie – the AP. Nutting’s son **Bill Nutting** served on the AP’s board of directors.

**How long can we live? How long *should* we live? And what happens when 65 is a life half-lived?**

These questions are explored in a new book by our colleague Bill Kole, who retired in late 2022 from the AP's Boston bureau where he was New England news editor – one of several key assignments over a 31-year AP career. He tells us about the book, his first - ***THE BIG 100: The New World of Super-Aging*** – that is out Oct. 3 but can be pre-ordered now.



Until just recently, Connecting had one colleague who passed the century mark – veteran AP Pentagon correspondent **Fred Hoffman** – before his death at 100 in July. We have a growing number of colleagues in their 90s – and I'm betting that Fred will have some company in the coming years.

Here's to a great day – be safe, stay healthy, live the day to your fullest.

Paul

***THE BIG 100* investigates coming surge in number of us living to triple-digit age**

“With beautiful prose and a sense of fun,  
*The Big 100* is stimulating and inspiring.”  
— **Dr. Jane Goodall**, founder of the  
Jane Goodall Institute & UN Messenger of Peace



**Bill Kole** - How long can we live? How long *should* we live? And what happens when 65 is a life half-lived?

Those are some of the questions I explore in my provocative new book, *THE BIG 100: The New World of Super-Aging*, out Oct. 3 via NYC-based Diversion Books (available

now for pre-order [here.](#))

It's my first book, and the subject is fitting, considering I retired a little early last November after 31 years with AP to complete it.

**THE BIG 100** investigates a coming surge in the number of us living to a triple-digit age. Globally, the ranks of centenarians are projected to increase eightfold over the next 25 years as the oldest and fittest of the baby boomers hit 100.

But more than demographics is at play: Stanford's Center on Longevity says one in every two 5-year-olds alive today is expected to live to 100, thanks to continuing medical breakthroughs in treating heart disease and cancer. Experts there think 100 will be the life expectancy for *all* newborns by 2050.

My book explores how our rapid aging is transforming society — demographically, politically, economically, and culturally — and it confronts the changes we urgently need to make today to make sure all those extra tomorrows are worth living. Will our centenarian future be one of bleakness or brightness? Much of that depends on us.

Examples of the bleak: Where the heck will we find the money to pay 100 years' worth of bills? And what will we do to close the troubling racial gap in extreme longevity? (In the U.S., eight in 10 centenarians are white.) And the bright: Many more of us creating and contributing ever deeper into our lengthening lives. (Think actor Betty White, producer Norman Lear, composer John Williams, and former President Jimmy Carter.)

I was literally wired for this project. My grandmother was born in 1899 and died in 2003, just shy of 104, after a life that touched parts of three centuries. And while based in Paris for AP in the mid-1990s, I told the world the extraordinary story of 122-year-old Jeanne Calment, the oldest person who ever lived whose age could be authenticated by records.

Early reviews of **THE BIG 100**, which include an endorsement by famed primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall, have been encouraging. Diversion Books, meanwhile, has signed deals with publishers in Brazil, China and South Korea for foreign-language editions in those countries.

As an extra enticement to buy the book, I'm donating a portion of the proceeds to Dr. Goodall's Roots & Shoots program, which empowers young people to tackle issues around climate change and conservation. I hope you enjoy the read. May you live a hundred years!



## New-member profile: Mary Ellin Arch



**Mary Ellin Arch** - I'm a Pittsburgh native (actually, Forward Township, but no one knows where that is) and I've lived in Richmond, Virginia, for nearly 25 years.

I started my journalism career in Wheeling, West Virginia, at The Intelligencer, followed by a stint at Virginia's Roanoke Times (back when it was Roanoke Times & World-News). I was Roanoke correspondent for United Press International, where my claims to fame were covering Frank Beamer's arrival as Virginia Tech football coach and the takeover of Jim Bakker's PTL by the Rev. Jerry Falwell. I then spent 10 years in reporting and editing roles (including metro editor) at Gannett Co. Inc.'s Rochester, New York, newspapers, the Times-Union and Democrat & Chronicle.



In 1999, I was managing 10 weekly zoned editions when Richmond bureau chief Dorothy Abernathy, my good friend against whom I competed in Roanoke, recruited me as one of the first AP news editors hired with no previous AP experience. I was AP Richmond news editor during the sniper shootings along Interstate 95 in 2002 (wondering where Jayson Blair got all his "scoops," ahem). After leaving AP I managed online coverage of the Virginia Tech massacre as content manager for the Richmond Times-Dispatch and the other Virginia newspapers then owned by RTD parent Media General.

My time as a working journalist came to an end in 2007, when I was one of the first journalists to lose a job in the downsizing that ultimately spelled the end of Media General, which folded as a company in 2017. I quickly regrouped, landing a job in

corporate community relations in 2008 and obtaining a master's degree in strategic public relations in 2009. I was profiled by The New York Times in 2011 as an example of a downsized journalist who career-switched into public relations. Click [here](#) to read.

In 2018, I hung out a shingle, offering news and PR writing services as P46 Communications LLC, a business I still run part-time.

Now semi-retired, I live in Richmond and count myself lucky that both of my adult children live nearby. I've traveled to Canada, the Caribbean, England, Ireland, France, and China, and am planning a trip to the Holy Land (Israel, Jordan and Egypt) this fall.

## Multiple myeloma – a hopeful message from one who has it

[Arnold Zeitlin](#) - The New York Times reported Tuesday, Paul, that Rep. Steve Scalise (R-La), the House majority leader, has contracted multiple myeloma, which it describes as a rare blood cancer. For me, it isn't so rare. I have it. I am writing hoping you might pass along to our colleagues a hopeful message for those who have the same or similar condition or who might someday experience it.

I was diagnosed in 2016 with stage 4 multiple myeloma. A kidney specialist I consulted found high levels of protein in my blood test. He recommended I consult a cancer specialist. I did and started a program of chemotherapy (pills), a brief radium therapy and monthly consultations with my specialist. My protein levels returned to normal. At that time, statistically, I had five years to live. I was able to drive despite neuropathy which numbed my feet. Now, I am in remission, still, statistically, with five years to live. I'm hoping to reach my 92d birthday in January. Don Baylor, the major league outfielder and manager, died in 2017 after surviving multiple myeloma for 14 years, and some people claim to survive almost to 30 years.

My nurse practitioner the other day asked if I still was working. It was her delicate way of wondering if I was going ga-ga in old age. I prepare a book review every month for the on-line South Asia Journal, a quarterly for readers interested in the region. Anyone can view my reviews at [southasiajournal.net/reviews](http://southasiajournal.net/reviews). I also keep two or three books active for reading. Our Centreville public library sends books to disabled or elderly folks who find it difficult to visit the library. I keep them busy sending books to me.

I no longer drive, having graduated from a cane to a walker to keep moving. I undergo a monthly three-hour immunization infusion of a cocktail of drugs I cannot pronounce. One drug is listed at \$21,000. I am on Medicare and have a supplementary health insurance policy that was part of my AP retirement package. I've never been billed for any expense during the past seven years of treatment. My cancer specialist sees me twice a year now to monitor my condition. I feel fine.

I hope my experience is helpful. Luv all, AZ

## Loved Linda Deutsch story on 1963 march

[Owen Ullmann](#) - I loved Linda Deutsch's story on covering the 1963 March on Washington, though I am a tad miffed that she didn't interview me there. Hah

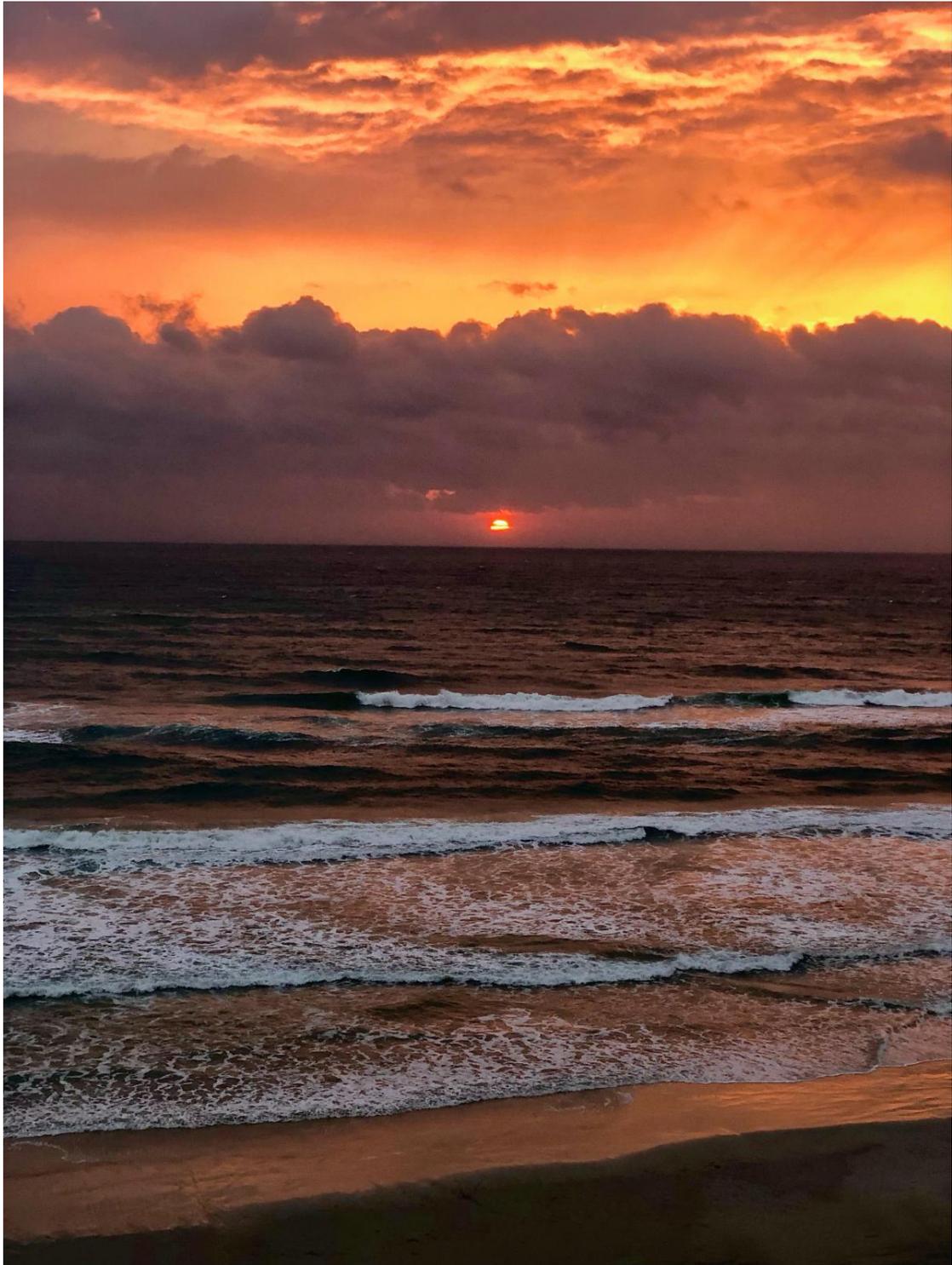
I was a member of the New Jersey delegation from East Brunswick, where a local church active in civil rights organized our trip. I was 15 and attended with a friend and our mothers.

Linda is right how everyone in attendance still has a clear memory of that iconic event and was forever changed. The positive power of such a huge, diverse, peaceful, loving and idealistic crowd was unlike anything I have ever experienced in my subsequent 50-year experience as a journalist.

My friend and I briefly encountered Dr. King, Walter Reuther and other heroes of the event as we wandered behind the Lincoln Memorial waiting for the speeches to begin. Security was surprisingly lax at the time.

Now, as we deal with so much hate, anger and division throughout the country, I wonder if we could ever recreate such a gathering. It's something America desperately needs today.

## Red sky at morning...



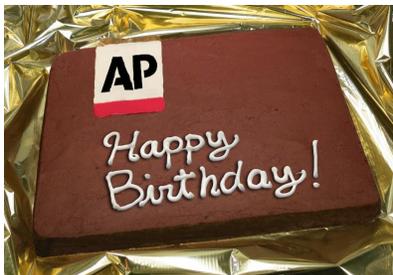
[Jo Steck](#) - Ponce Inlet awaits Hurricane Idalia!

## August harvest



[Susan Ragan](#) - Pete Leabo's photo reminded me you like photos of our places. This is my field after a late wheat harvest in August. The farmer that leases my field has some really old combines and sometimes he gets delayed as he repairs them.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Kristi Chew](#)

## Welcome to Connecting



[Terry Kole](#)

[Kathleen O'Dell](#)

## Stories of interest

### ***CNN Is Expected to Pick Mark Thompson as Next Leader*** (New York Times)

By Benjamin Mullin and John Koblin

Mark Thompson, a former chief executive of The New York Times and leader of the BBC, is expected to be named the next top executive of CNN, according to three people with knowledge of the decision.

Some senior executives at Warner Bros. Discovery, CNN's parent company, have already been informed of the decision to hire Mr. Thompson, said the people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because some executives at CNN hadn't yet been informed of the decision.

Mr. Thompson and a spokesman for Warner Bros. Discovery did not respond to requests for comment.

CNN, one of the world's pre-eminent news organizations, has been battered by a nearly endless string of crises for the last 18 months. Ratings have plummeted, profits have slumped, and the network is still reeling from Chris Licht's tenure as chief executive, which was terminated in June amid sagging staff morale.

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

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## ***A judge told Kansas authorities to destroy electronic copies of newspaper's files taken during raid*** (AP)

BY JOSH FUNK

Kansas authorities must destroy all electronic copies they made of a small newspaper's files when police raided its office this month, a judge ordered Tuesday, nearly two weeks after computers and cellphones seized in the search were returned.

The Aug. 11 searches of the Marion County Record's office and the homes of its publisher and a City Council member have been sharply criticized, putting Marion, a central Kansas town of about 1,900 people, at the center of a debate over the press protections offered by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Attorney Bernie Rhodes, who represents the newspaper, said a judge ordered authorities to hand over those electronic records and destroy any copies they have of them along with all photographs that officers took during the raids.

The local prosecutor and sheriff agreed investigators shouldn't keep that evidence, but Rhodes insisted on a court order to document it. It won't be clear what files were on the drive until Rhodes gets a copy.

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

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## ***Newspaper group publisher G. Ogden Nutting has died at 87*** (AP)

WHEELING, W.Va. (AP) — G. Ogden Nutting, who helped grow his family's newspaper business to more than 50 daily publications in 18 states, has died. He was 87.

Nutting died Friday, according to The Intelligencer and Wheeling News-Register, which published his obituary and a separate story on his death Monday.

A Wheeling resident, Nutting was the longtime publisher of Ogden Newspapers Inc. and spent more than 60 years in various roles with the private company. His grandfather, H.C. Ogden, founded The Wheeling Evening News in 1890, and it formed the basis of the newspaper chain.

Nutting joined Pittsburgh Pirates team owner Kevin McClatchy's ownership group in 1996. McClatchy and Nutting knew each other initially through their newspaper industry ties before McClatchy brought Nutting into his ownership group that kept the team from leaving Pittsburgh.

Read more [here](#).

Click [here](#) for Wheeling Intelligencer story

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## ***TV news crew in Chicago robbed at gunpoint while reporting on robberies*** (The Hill)

**BY DOMINICK MASTRANGELO**

A television news crew was robbed at gunpoint this week in Chicago while reporting from the scene on a spate of robberies that took place across the city in recent days.

A reporter and cameraman for Spanish-language station Univision Chicago were reporting from Chicago's west side early Monday morning when they were accosted at gunpoint by three armed men wearing ski masks.

The men allegedly demanded money and stole some personal belongings before they fled the scene, police told local media outlets.

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

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## ***NU College of Law to establish clinic to defend First Amendment rights*** (Nebraska Examiner)

**BY: PAUL HAMMEL**

LINCOLN — Journalists and the members of the public facing violations of they First Amendment rights will soon have somewhere else to turn.

The University of Nebraska College of Law announced Monday that it was establishing a law clinic, staffed by law students and supervised by practicing attorneys, to take on cases involving free speech, public records and public meetings.

Law school officials unveiled the project before a roomful of journalists at the law college.

\$1 million grant

“We will defend the First Amendment rights of our clients while at the same time educating students on the intricacies of First Amendment law,” said Daniel Gutman, an Omaha-based attorney who will direct the clinic.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mike Holmes.

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## ***Disney, The New York Times and CNN are among a dozen major media companies blocking access to ChatGPT as they wage a cold war on A.I. (CNN)***

By Oliver Darcy

News organizations are in a cold war with OpenAI.

While a shot has yet to be fired, some of the nation's largest newsrooms are actively taking defensive measures to safeguard their content from ChatGPT, the groundbreaking artificial intelligence chatbot that is seen as a potential aggressor to an already struggling news industry.

A multitude of leading newsrooms have recently injected code into their websites that blocks OpenAI's web crawler, GPTBot, from scanning their platforms for content. The Guardian's Ariel Bogle reported last week that CNN, The New York Times, and Reuters had blocked GPTBot. But a Reliable Sources review has found several additional news and media giants have also quietly taken this step, including Disney, Bloomberg, The Washington Post, The Atlantic, Axios, Insider, ABC News, ESPN, and the Gothamist, among others. Publishers such as Condé Nast, Hearst, and Vox Media, which all house several prominent publications, have also taken the defensive measure.

The deep archives and intellectual property rights of these news organizations are immensely valuable — arguably crucial — to training A.I. models such as ChatGPT in efforts to provide users with accurate information. As one news executive, who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly on behalf of his company, told me on Monday: “Most of the internet is garbage. Traditional media publishers, on the other hand, are fact driven and offer quality content.”

Read more [here](#).

## **Today in History - Aug. 30, 2023**



## By The Associated Press

**Today is Wednesday, Aug. 30, the 242nd day of 2023. There are 123 days left in the year.**

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 30, 2021, the United States completed its withdrawal from Afghanistan, ending America's longest war with the Taliban back in power, as Air Force transport planes carried a remaining contingent of troops from Kabul airport. After watching the last U.S. planes disappear into the sky over Afghanistan, Taliban fighters fired their guns into the air, celebrating victory after a 20-year insurgency.

### On this date:

In 1861, Union Gen. John C. Fremont instituted martial law in Missouri and declared slaves there to be free. (However, Fremont's emancipation order was countermanded by President Abraham Lincoln.)

In 1941, during World War II, German forces approaching Leningrad cut off the remaining rail line out of the city.

In 1945, U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur arrived in Japan to set up Allied occupation headquarters.

In 1963, the "Hot Line" communications link between Washington and Moscow went into operation.

In 1967, the Senate confirmed the appointment of Thurgood Marshall as the first Black justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1983, Guion (GY'-un) S. Bluford Jr. became the first Black American astronaut to travel in space as he blasted off aboard the Challenger.

In 1991, Azerbaijan (ah-zur-by-JAHN') declared its independence, joining the stampede of republics seeking to secede from the Soviet Union.

In 1992, the television series "Northern Exposure" won six Emmy Awards, including best drama series, while "Murphy Brown" received three Emmys, including best comedy series.

In 1993, "The Late Show with David Letterman" premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1997, Americans received word of the car crash in Paris that claimed the lives of Princess Diana, her boyfriend, Dodi Fayed (DOH'-dee FY'-ehd), and their driver, Henri (AHN'-ree) Paul. (Because of the time difference, it was August 31 where the crash occurred.)

In 2005, a day after Hurricane Katrina hit, floods were covering 80 percent of New Orleans, looting continued to spread and rescuers in helicopters and boats picked up

hundreds of stranded people.

In 2007, in a serious breach of nuclear security, a B-52 bomber armed with six nuclear warheads flew cross-country unnoticed; the Air Force later punished 70 people.

Ten years ago: Indonesia's highest court upheld a death sentence for Lindsay Sandiford, a British woman convicted of smuggling \$2.5 million worth of cocaine into the resort island of Bali. Seamus Heaney, who won the Nobel Prize for literature and gained a global reputation as Ireland's greatest poet since William Butler Yeats, died in Dublin at age 74.

Five years ago: A Los Angeles man was arrested and charged with making a series of phone calls threatening to kill journalists at The Boston Globe for what he allegedly called "treasonous" attacks on President Donald Trump. (Robert Chain later pleaded guilty to seven counts of making threatening communications; he is scheduled for sentencing in September.) The president told Congress that he would be canceling pay raises that were due in January for most civilian federal employees, citing budget constraints.

One year ago: Mikhail Gorbachev, who as the last leader of the Soviet Union waged a losing battle to salvage a crumbling empire but produced extraordinary reforms that led to the end of the Cold War, making him one of the most important political figures of the 20th century, died at age 91. Ukraine claimed to have destroyed bridges and ammunition depots and pounded command posts in a surge of fighting in the Russian-occupied south, fueling speculation that its long-awaited counteroffensive to try to turn the tide of war was underway. Russia said it repelled the attack and inflicted heavy casualties. Charlbi Dean, a South African actor and model who had a breakout role in "Triangle of Sadness," which won the top prize at the Cannes Film Festival and would go on to be nominated for three Oscars, died at age 32.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Elizabeth Ashley is 84. Actor-turned politician Ben Jones is 82. Actor John Kani is 81. Cartoonist R. Crumb is 80. Olympic gold medal skier Jean-Claude Killy (zhahn-KLOHD' kee-LEE') is 80. Comedian Lewis Black is 75. Actor Timothy Bottoms is 72. Actor David Paymer is 69. Jazz musician Gerald Albright is 66. Actor Michael Chiklis is 60. Actor Michael Michele is 57. Country singer Sherrie Austin is 52. Rock singer-musician Lars Frederiksen (Rancid) is 52. Actor Cameron Diaz is 51. TV personality Lisa Ling is 50. Rock singer-musician Aaron Barrett (Reel Big Fish) is 49. Actor Raúl Castillo is 46. Actor Michael Gladis is 46. MLB pitcher Adam Wainwright is 42. Former tennis player Andy Roddick is 41. Singer Rachael Price (Lake Street Dive) is 38. Rock musician Ryan Ross is 37. Actor Johanna Braddy is 36. Actor Cameron Finley is 36.

## 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 Central Region 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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