SHARE:

Join Our Email List

View as Webpage















Connecting

Feb. 23, 2024

Click <u>here</u> for sound of the Teletype



Top AP News
Top AP Photos
AP Merchandise
AP Emergency Relief Fund

Connecting Archive
AP Newsletters
AP Books
AP News Tips



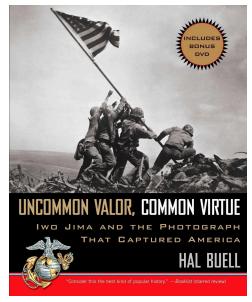
Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Feb. 23, 2024,

When a quote from **Hal Buell**, one of the AP's most respected people ever, is the lead in the popular Axios column, well, it is the lead for Connecting, too.

Buell, longtime director of AP's global photo operations, died Jan. 29 at the age of 92, and it was his quote in his <u>AP obituary</u> contained in his daughter Barbara's Buell's quote that Axios' Jim VandeHei Jatched onto:

"I had the greatest job in the whole world."



The Thanks is Ours: from <u>Peggy Walsh</u> on a post Thursday by Norm Abelson: "Those of us who've enjoyed Norm Abelson's eloquent, well written and on point contributions to Connecting owe him our thanks. His mother did raise him right!"

And from Today in History: In 1945, during World War II, U.S. Marines on Iwo Jima captured Mount Suribachi, where they raised two American flags (the second flagraising was captured in the iconic Associated Press photograph.) See above.

<u>Pulitzer.org</u> - Perhaps no Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph is better known than Joe Rosenthal's picture of six U.S. Marines raising the American flag on Mount Suribachi

on Iwo Jima. It was taken on Friday, Feb. 23, 1945, five days after the Marines landed on the island. The Associated Press, Rosenthal's employer, transmitted the picture to member newspapers 17½ hours later, and it made the front pages of many Sunday papers.

In 2007, Hal Buell wrote a book, <u>Uncommon Valor. Common Virtue</u>, that provides a dramatic photo history of the battle and the iconic picture that captured America. Containing over 120 combat photographs- including shots of the flag-raising by other photographers-quotes from survivors, newspapers and magazines, battle reports and Medal of Honor citations, it provides a grunt's eye view of the bloodiest battle in U.S. Marine Corps history.

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

Paul

Axios Finish Line: Live better longer

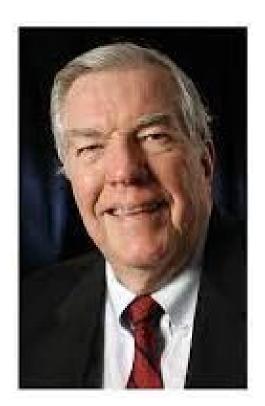
By Jim VandeHei, author of Axios Finish Line

A line in the obituary for 92-year-old Hal Buell, who led AP's photo department from darkroom to digital over four decades, captured in nine words a book's worth of teaching on living better longer:

"I had the greatest job in the whole world," he said when doctors and others asked him about his long life in his final days.

Why it matters: The longevity industry is booming and bubbling with advice on fitness, food, fun, hot yoga and cold plunges. But I'm amazed by how many people don't put more thought and intent into optimizing the one thing most do more than anything else — work.

That hit home this week when I reviewed our annual Axios survey on employee satisfaction. While we do better than most companies in most areas — we use the Gallup Q12 employee engagement survey — I hate to have any employees who are "actively disengaged."



It reminded me of Gallup's own sobering poll results from last year: 62% are indifferent to their work lives. 18% are downright miserable.

The big picture: If you have a choice (and many people don't), life is too short not to find deep meaning and satisfaction in your career and company.

My top tip to college kids: Search for something you would do for free until life's adult obligations truly take over.

Back in November of 2022, I offered five ways to do this in a broad sense — to put meaning over money. Tonight, let's end with a few more ways to shake things up if you feel disengaged in your current gig.

Read more **here**. Shared by Bill Kole.

October 7 Attack Survivors Sue AP For Hiring Photographers 'Embedded With Hamas'



Photojournalist Hassan Eslaiah, right, poses with Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, left.

By PESALA BANDARA PetaPixel

Several survivors of the October 7 attacks on Israel have sued the Associated Press (AP) for hiring freelance photojournalists who are allegedly "embedded with Hamas."

In a new lawsuit filed on Wednesday, the plaintiffs — which include Israeli-Americans and Americans who attended the Nova music festival raided by Hamas as well as the

loved ones of victims — have claimed that AP has aided and abetted the terrorist organization by using these freelance photographers.

According to a report by The New York Post, the plaintiffs accuse AP of "materially supporting terrorism" by paying alleged Hamas-associated photojournalists for images captured during and immediately after the October 7 invasion.

"There is no doubt that AP's photographers participated in the October 7 massacre, and that AP knew, or at the very least should have known, through simple due diligence, that the people they were paying were longstanding Hamas affiliates and full participants in the terrorist attack that they were also documenting," the complaint alleges.

Read more <u>here</u>. Shared by Doug Pizac.

AP statement on NJAC lawsuit

By Lauren Easton

AP issued this statement on Thursday in response to a lawsuit filed by five individuals working with the National Jewish Advocacy Center regarding AP's coverage of the Oct. 7 attacks in Israel:

The Associated Press has the deepest sympathy for those affected by the horrific Oct. 7 attacks in Israel.

At the same time, we must be clear that a lawsuit filed Wednesday against AP for its reporting on the attacks is baseless.

AP had no advance knowledge of the Oct. 7 attacks, nor have we seen any evidence – including in the lawsuit – that the freelance journalists who contributed to our coverage did. Allegations like this are reckless and create even more potential danger for journalists in the region.

This lawsuit echoes the unfounded allegations first raised by the group Honest Reporting on Nov. 8, 2023. The next day, Honest Reporting's executive director admitted they had no evidence to back up their suggestion that freelance journalists covering the Oct. 7 attacks had been given prior warning, saying they were simply "raising questions."

Documenting breaking news events around the world – no matter how horrific – is our job. Without AP and other news organizations, the world would not have known what was happening on Oct. 7.

Connecting series:

Your stories of jury duty

Jim Carlson - My one call for jury duty got me one chance to actually decide a case -until I reminded the judge during jury selection that, as a lawyer, he had once sued
the AP, where I worked, and other news media over coverage of a notorious case from
Madison. In 1977, A judge in that city, Archie Simonson, was holding a sentencing
hearing for a 15-year-old boy accused with two others of sexually assaulting a girl in a
high school stairway. At one point, the judge commented that it could be a normal
reaction to the sexually permissive way young women dressed those days. A reporter
with the Wisconsin State Journal covered the hearing and got the quotes. We picked
up the resulting story, as did many other news outlets. The judge soon was ousted in a
recall and replaced by Dane County's first female judge. Simonson's lawyer, Ralph
Adam Fine, sued all the media outlets to no success. By the time I was called for jury
duty years later, Fine was a judge in Milwaukee. I don't know exactly why I wasn't
selected for that jury, but my reminder probably did it.

-0-

Marc Humbert - I was first called for jury duty in the early 1980s. When I was questioned by then-Rensselaer County Court Judge Andrew Dwyer about why I might not be available for jury duty, I told him that I covered politics and government for The Associated Press and that it was approaching a major election. He looked down at me, and with a dismissive wave of his hand, declared, "Get out of here, Mr. Humbert, no defense attorney or prosecutor in their right mind would ever let you be on a jury." I could have argued the point, but did not.

I did get accepted several years later for a jury in New York state court handling a drug case. But as the trial was about to start, the judge announced there had been a plea deal in the case and thanked us for our service. I am still waiting for my chance. My wife, however, did make it onto a jury. It convicted a young man of the axe murder of a young woman he had picked up in a bar.

-0-

Kent Prince - My first call to jury came when I was barely 21, home for the summer from graduate school. I had registered a year earlier, but because I was out of state, I had never voted. In Mississippi in those days, the only absentee ballots went to certified absences like soldiers and truck drivers, so I missed my first presidential election. But I got my jury summons. I was home because my father and mother, who ran a weekly newspaper, figured they could leave it to me while they took their first-ever extended vacation.

I was shocked to get the call, but dutifully went to the courthouse to beg off. I knew the clerk of court, of course. He had passed me when I took the literacy test. In Mississippi in those days you had to prove you could read to register. Truth be told, I had no clue what that section of the lawbook meant, but he passed me anyway, with a wise crack about graduate school. He told me he and the judge knew I couldn't run the paper and sit on a jury at the same time, so they had quietly put my name back in the pot when it was drawn for the first venire. And they did the same thing in the second drawing. But when my name was drawn a third time, they decided the stars were against me and they had to call me in -- although they knew nobody would seat a kid from a liberal school up north.

They were right. I sat on those hard pews all week while lawyers passed me by. Unlike later in New Orleans, when I found myself sitting in judgment over a shootout at high noon under the basketball goals in the Desire Housing Project. That and other sittings taught me something about justice -- especially when the adamant holdout sitting next to me got hungry and changed her vote to guilty so she could go eat.

-0-

John Rogers - For some reason I was never called for jury duty until I was in my 30s and working for AP in Los Angeles when the summons arrived. We were really busy with something at the time and I asked my editor (I won't say who) what I should do. I was advised that since it didn't come by registered mail, I should just throw it away. Maybe the court would think the Post Office lost it.

A few months later, however, I got another summons, this time by registered mail, advising me that if I didn't show up, I could be held in contempt of court and jailed. Normally I would have raced right down there but I was now scheduled to move to New York in two weeks to join the General Desk. I called and asked a bailiff what I should do. He gave me the same advice as my editor, just throw the summons away. "We're not going to come all the way to New York looking for you," he said, laughing.

Now, fast forward six years. I was living on Long Island and was now a supervisor on what had been renamed the National Desk when the next jury duty summons arrived. In those days, they hadn't established the one-and-done jury system, where you called in each day for a week and if they needed you the next day, they told you to come in. You had to commit to being there as long as a week instead. So I arranged a week off and headed out, armed with a book to pass the time.

To my surprise my name was chosen for the very first jury pool, involving a case in which somebody claimed the door on a Long Island Railroad train opened before the train stopped and they stepped out and fell down. During voir dire a lawyer, noting I lived on the Island but worked in Manhattan, asked how I got to work. I told him the Long Island Railroad, thinking this will get me off this jury. It didn't, but the judge did ask if any of us had ever been involved in a similar lawsuit. I raised my hand and said I'd once sued an insurance company over a multi-car crash on the Hollywood Freeway. I thought this will surely be the clincher, I'll be out of here in minutes. It wasn't. Not even when the judge asked if I was happy with the result and I told him yes, adding I'd been awarded \$15,000 for repair of my car, the cost of a rental and doctor bills.

Instead, I was sworn in and, with the others, told to come back in three weeks because a courtroom wouldn't be available until then. I went back to work the next day, telling Mike Silverman I would have to have another week off in three weeks and in the meantime what did he want me to do. He'd already lined up someone to fill in for me, so he let me pick what features I might want to do. I recall interviewing the director and others for a feature on the Oscar-nominated film "Shine" and reviewing the Tom Hanks movie "That Thing You Do."

Three weeks later myself and my fellow jurors arrived bright and early and were directed to the jury room, where we sat for the next three hours as the bailiff kept coming in to tell us the trial would start any minute. Finally, he told us the judge

wanted to see us. The judge, a friendly man in his 60s, walked in and told us we were being dismissed because both sides had agreed to settle. He added he'd been a judge for a long time and occasionally, when a case reached the point where he was sitting up on the bench in his robe and the jurors were in the next room, people who had been arguing forever that they would never settle suddenly decided they could.

He told us not to fret, that we'd all be credited for jury service so we couldn't be called again for at least a year. Then he said anyone disappointed at failing to serve on a jury should raise their hand and he'd put their name back in the jury pool. Of course no one did. He laughed and said in all the times he'd made that offer not once had anybody ever raised their hand. Then he gave us our jury duty certificates and wished us well.

I've still never gotten to serve on a jury for a case that actually went to trial.

-0-

<u>Joyce Rosenberg</u> - I've been called for jury duty a number of times over the past 40+ years, mostly sitting for a couple of days and then getting dismissed. But in 1979, I was chosen for a tax evasion case that lasted two months and was notable for two reasons, and for two interesting postscripts.

The defendant was Allen Klein, the former manager of the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. He had taken thousands of demo records and sold them to record shops. One of the witnesses was Timothy Crouse, who we all know as the author of "The Boys on the Bus." One of the assistant U.S. attorneys was Mark Pomerantz, who we recently heard about when he quit the Manhattan DA's investigation into Donald Trump's hush payments to Stormy Daniels.

The postscripts: I was so intrigued by this case and the attorneys that I decided to go to law school, and I enrolled in Brooklyn Law School the following year. And, on a weekend in 2009, when Allen Klein died, I called the AP and told the Nerve Center supervisor, "I'm going to tell you something the flacks won't -- he was convicted of tax charges in 1979. You have to get it in the story. And if anyone questions it, tell them there was an AP reporter on the jury." I was looking at Reuters and other obits that morning, and none of them had it till after we did.

I still get called every few years, but about 10 years ago a Criminal Court judge told me, "You're not going to get picked for this jury -- the lawyers won't let a psychoanalyst on a jury." And when I've been called for panels since then, I was among the first excused. So I guess my career as a juror is over.

Seeking pachyderm perambulators?



<u>Malcolm Ritter</u> - As a volunteer at New York's American Museum of Natural History, my official jobs are leading tours and answering questions in a couple of exhibit halls. I've also done a bit of copy editing for exhibit labels and signs. But nobody asked me about this one.

It's actually meant for people visiting the elephant exhibit.

AP at the museum

CHAMPION SHOT. DEAD IN O Famed Representative Wild West Had Defeated Best Marksmen Throughout World Greenville, O., Nov. 4-(AP)-Mrs Frank Butler, 66, famed as Annie Oakmarkswoman and ley, champion show woman, died at the home of arelative here last night. She had been in ill health for some time. Practically paralyzed since when she was injured in a train accident while a member of the famous Buffalo Bill troupe, she had been leading a retired life.

<u>Ken Herman</u> - Displayed at National Cowgirl Hall of Fame & Museum in Fort Worth, Texas. (Headline is a comma away from making it look like Annie Oakley was shot dead in Ohio.)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Warren Levinson

On Saturday to...

Susan Brady Boyle

Phil Dopoulos

On Sunday to...

Julie March

Lee Siegel

Julia Weeks

Stories of interest

Vice Media says 'several hundred' staff members will be laid off, Vice.com news site shuttered (AP)

NEW YORK (AP) — Vice Media plans to lay off several hundred employees and no longer publish material on its Vice.com website, the company's CEO said in a memo to staff Thursday.

Vice, which filed for bankruptcy last year before being sold for \$350 million to a consortium led by the Fortress Investment Group, is also looking to sell its Refinery 29 publishing business, CEO Bruce Dixon said in his memo to staff.

It's the latest sign of financial problems buffeting the media industry. Digital sites the Messenger, BuzzFeed News and Jezebel have all shut down in the past year, and legacy media outlets like the Los Angeles Times, Washington Post and Wall Street Journal have also seen job cuts.

Once a swashbuckling media company geared to a younger audience with an immersive storytelling style that encompassed digital, television and film outlets, New York-based Vice was valued at \$5.7 billion in 2017.

Read more here.

-0-

CBS faces uproar after seizing investigative journalist's files (The Hill)

BY JONATHAN TURLEY

"Anyone who isn't confused really doesn't understand the situation." Those words, from CBS icon Edward R. Murrow, came to mind this week after I spoke with journalists at the network.

There is trouble brewing at Black Rock, the headquarters of CBS, after the firing of Catherine Herridge, an acclaimed investigative reporter. Many of us were shocked after Herridge was included in layoffs this month, but those concerns have increased after CBS officials took the unusual step of seizing her files, computers and records, including information on privileged sources.

The position of CBS has alarmed many, including the union, as an attack on free press principles by one of the nation's most esteemed press organizations.

I have spoken confidentially with current and former CBS employees who have stated that they could not recall the company ever taking such a step before. One former CBS journalist said that many employees "are confused why [Herridge] was laid off, as one of the correspondents who broke news regularly and did a lot of original reporting."

That has led to concerns about the source of the pressure. He added that he had never seen a seizure of records from a departing journalist, and that the move had sent a "chilling signal" in the ranks of CBS.

Read more here.

-0-

Mexican president doxes New York Times correspondent during press conference (The Hill)

BY RAFAEL BERNAL

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador on Thursday made public the contact information for The New York Times bureau in Mexico, which is ranked 153rd out of 179 countries in the 2023 Press Freedom Index by Reporters Without Borders.

López Obrador, a fierce critic of both domestic and foreign media, showed the bureau's contact information on a large screen during his daily hours-long press conference, where he often rails against political adversaries and calls balls and strikes on his perceived fairness of media coverage.

The president's screen displayed a formal request for comments from Natalie Kitroeff, the New York Times bureau chief for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, which López Obrador read word-for-word with commentary, including reading out loud the displayed contact phone number.

According to Reporters Without Borders, 46 journalists have been killed in Mexico during López Obrador's administration. The country's criminal gangs are notorious for their use of violence against journalists who cover their activities.

Read more **here**. Shared by Linda Deutsch.

-0-

AT&T's network is having problems: What you should know while navigating a phone service outage (AP)

NEW YORK (AP) — Customers of AT&T, the country's largest wireless provider, reported widespread outages on Thursday.

Here's what to know if you are having problems with your phone service.

When did the outage start?

AT&T had more than 58,000 outages around noon ET, in locations including Houston, Atlanta and Chicago. The outages, which began at approximately 3:30 a.m. ET, peaked at around 73,000 reported incidents. The carrier has more than 240 million subscribers, the country's largest.

What is the SOS mode?

Some AT&T iPhone customers saw SOS messages displayed in the status bar on their cellphones. The message indicates that the device is having trouble connecting to

their cellular provider's network, but it can make emergency calls through other carrier networks, according to Apple Support.

What is Wi-Fi calling?

AT&T urged customers to connect to Wi-Fi to use their phones. Wi-Fi calling is a built-in feature on most Android devices and iPhones and can be turned on under the phone's settings.

Read more here.

-0-

Press Forward announces local expansion (Poynter)

By: Kristen Hare

On Wednesday, Press Forward announced an expansion of its local chapters at the opening of the Knight Media Forum. Eleven communities joined six established chapters in the effort to get \$500 million into local newsrooms and communities that need them.

Press Foward is an initiative announced last fall aimed at strengthening "communities and democracy by supporting local news and information with an infusion of more than a half-billion dollars over the next five years," according to a press release at the time. (Here's our Press Foward primer.)

In November, chapters were announced in Alaska, Illinois, Minnesota, Kansas and Philadelphia. Wednesday's announcement adds to that list, with chapters in the following places (and their lead funders), according to a press release:

Read more **here**. Shared by Linda Deutsch.

-0-

Signal Ohio: A nonprofit expands to fill local news gaps in the Buckeye state (Editor and Publisher)

Bob Miller | for Editor & Publisher

An Ohio-based nonprofit organization is expanding journalism throughout the Buckeye State and engaging readers to help with public accountability.

Like many nonprofit journalism startups across the U.S., Signal Ohio fills news coverage gaps vacated by for-profit newspapers and broadcast companies. Signal Ohio conducts business operations from a centralized hub, with newsroom spokes expanding across the state, which will focus solely on journalism.

Rita McNeil Danish, an attorney who runs the organization, spent much of her career as a judge, a civil rights advocate and a city attorney in Ohio. McNeil Danish was recruited to become the organization's CEO to launch Signal Ohio, formerly known as the Ohio Local News Initiative.

Signal Ohio spawned from the American Journalism Project and The Cleveland Foundation. Roughly \$7.5 million in seed money was generated to launch the enterprise.

Read more **here**.

Today in History - Feb. 23, 2024



Today is Friday, Feb. 23, the 54th day of 2024. There are 312 days left in the year.

Today's highlight

On Feb. 23, 2007, a Mississippi grand jury refused to bring any new charges in the 1955 slaying of Emmett Till, the Black teenager who was beaten and shot after being accused of whistling at a white woman, declining to indict the woman, Carolyn Bryant Donham, for manslaughter.

On this date

In 1685, composer George Frideric Handel was born in present-day Germany.

In 1822, Boston was granted a charter to incorporate as a city.

In 1836, the siege of the Alamo began in San Antonio, Texas.

In 1861, President-elect Abraham Lincoln arrived secretly in Washington to take office, following word of a possible assassination plot in Baltimore.

In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt signed an agreement with Cuba to lease the area around Guantanamo Bay to the United States.

In 1942, the first shelling of the U.S. mainland during World War II occurred as a Japanese submarine fired on an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California, causing little damage.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. Marines on Iwo Jima captured Mount Suribachi, where they raised two American flags (the second flag-raising was captured in the iconic Associated Press photograph.)

In 1954, the first mass inoculation of schoolchildren against polio using the Salk vaccine began in Pittsburgh as some 5,000 students were vaccinated.

In 1998, 42 people were killed, some 2,600 homes and businesses damaged or destroyed, by tornadoes in central Florida.

In 2011, in a major policy reversal, the Obama administration said it would no longer defend the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act, a federal law banning recognition of same-sex marriage.

In 2020, Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old Black man, was fatally shot on a residential Georgia street; a white father and son had armed themselves and pursued him after seeing him running through their neighborhood. (Greg and Travis McMichael and neighbor William "Roddie" Bryan were convicted of murder, aggravated assault and other charges and were sentenced to life in prison.)

In 2021, golfer Tiger Woods was seriously injured when his SUV crashed into a median and rolled over several times on a steep road in suburban Los Angeles.

In 2023, a federal judge handed singer R. Kelly a 20-year prison sentence for his convictions of child pornography and the enticement of minors for sex but said he would serve nearly all of the sentence simultaneously with a 30-year sentence imposed a year earlier on racketeering charges.

Today's birthdays: Football Hall of Famer Fred Biletnikoff is 81. Author John Sandford is 80. Actor Patricia Richardson is 73. Former NFL player Ed "Too Tall" Jones is 73. Rock musician Brad Whitford (Aerosmith) is 72. Singer Howard Jones is 69. Rock musician Michael Wilton (Queensryche) is 62. Country singer Dusty Drake is 60. Actor Kristin Davis is 59. Former tennis player Helena Sukova is 59. Actor Marc Price is 56. TV personality/businessman Daymond John (TV: "Shark Tank") is 55. Actor Niecy Nash is 54. Rock musician Jeff Beres (Sister Hazel) is 53. Country singer Steve Holy is 52. Rock musician Lasse Johansson (The Cardigans) is 51. Film and theater composer Robert Lopez is 49. Actor Kelly Macdonald is 48. Rapper Residente is 46. Actor Josh Gad is 43. Actor Emily Blunt is 41. Actor Aziz Ansari is 41. Actor Tye White (TV: "Greenleaf") is 38. Actor Dakota Fanning is 30.

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.

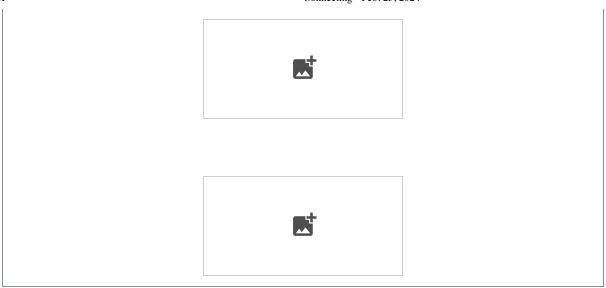
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- Connecting "selfies" a word and photo selfprofile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **Second chapters** You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **Spousal support** How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- My most unusual story tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- "A silly mistake that you make"- a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- Multigenerational AP families profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- First job How did you get your first job in journalism?
- Most unusual place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens
Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com





Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215

Unsubscribe stevenspl@live.com

<u>Update Profile</u> | <u>Constant Contact Data Notice</u>

Sent by paul@connectingnewsletter.ccsend.com powered by

