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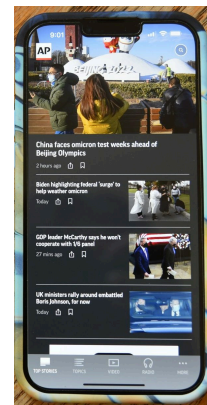
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Connecting

March 7, 2024

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this March 7, 2024,

Richard Nixon, Gene Autry and Reggie Jackson.

Those three famous folks figured into our colleague **Doug Pizac**'s story about his first big photo scoop for the AP.

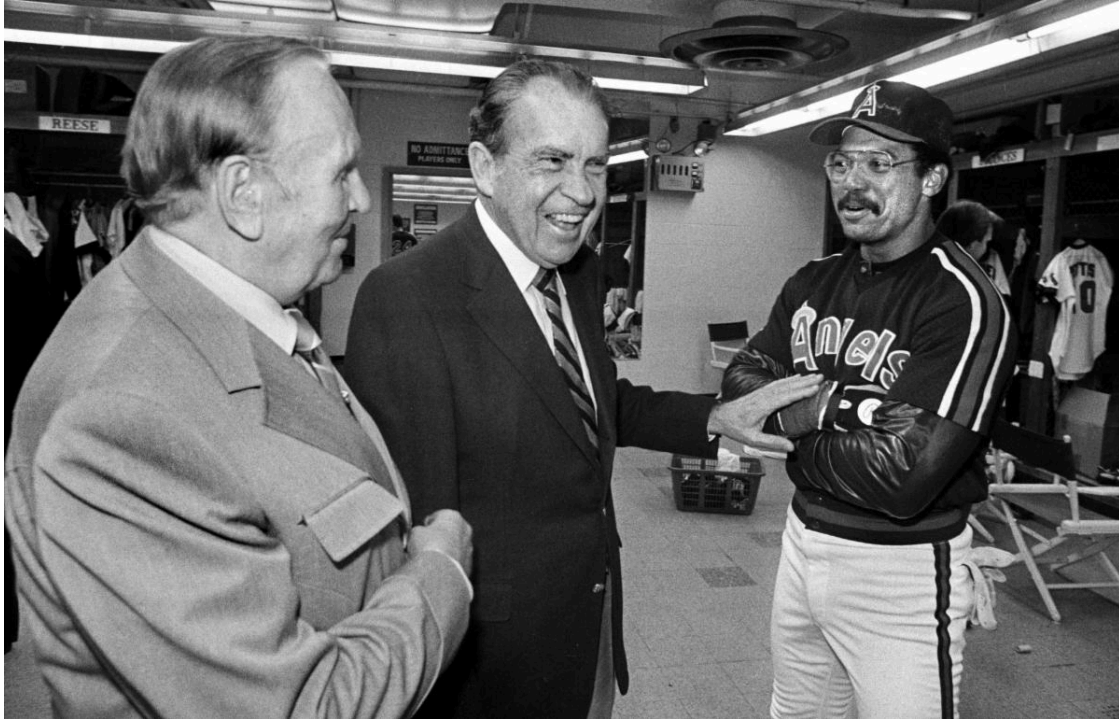
And Doug and Ye Olde Connecting Editor invite you to share your own unusual story of scoring a beat on the competition.

MORT LIPPMAN SERVICES: A graveside service for Mort Lippman, father of our colleague **Andy Lippman**, is scheduled on Monday, March 11 at 11 a.m. Mountain time at the Green Acres Cemetery (401 North Hayden Road) in Scottsdale, Ariz. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Jewish Free Loan - www.jewishfreeloan.org Click [here](#) for a link to his obituary.

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

Paul

Creating a reputation



Former President Richard Nixon shares some good times with California Angels player Reggie Jackson, right, and club owner Gene Autry in the Angels locker room Monday night, April 3, 1984, at Anaheim Stadium, California. (AP Photo/Doug Pizac)

Doug Pizac -- My first big photo scoop for AP was on April 3, 1984. The subject was a rare public appearance by former President Richard Nixon at a California Angels baseball game as the guest of team owner and famed singing cowboy actor Gene Autry. This also marked the beginning of "If I disappeared on you, then you were about to get skunked" reputation with other photographers.

The Orange County Register, Los Angeles Times and UPI all sent two photographers to Anaheim Stadium -- one to shoot the game and the other to cover just Nixon. Other papers that did not normally cover the games on a regular basis also sent a photographer for Nixon. AP sent only me to do double duty.

Prior to joining AP, a previous job of mine was being the Angels' MLB team photographer for two years which made me friends and info sources with a lot of people there. One of them was Big Jack who was head of security. Back then, there was a private dining room right behind the press box for the media where free meals were served. Jack had his own private table while I sat at a large round table eating with the other photographers. Beforehand though, I talked with Jack about when Nixon would be coming. He told me when I saw him get a call on his walkie talkie and leave the room through a door next to his table, the former president would be

arriving onto the third floor down the hall in about two minutes. That's all I needed to know while I quietly ate my dinner.

When Jack got up I excused myself saying I was going to AP's darkroom across the hall, which I did. I grabbed one camera/lens with a flash and sneaked to the elevator where Autry was waiting. The door opened and Nixon walked out. The two started heading to Autry's private suite when I interrupted them, asking if Nixon wanted to meet the players and informing them that the team would be going out onto the field soon for BP which might be a security problem. While Nixon was a politician professionally, I knew he was a HUGE baseball fan who could recite stats. Nixon said he would love to meet the players and Autry took him back to the elevator to go down to the clubhouse. The secret service detail wouldn't let me on the elevator so I took 3-4 steps at a time down four flights of stairs to the basement. I was there when the doors opened, surprising the agents and Nixon. Autry, who knew me, smiled.

Back then too, clubhouses were open to the media including photographers. I followed them into the locker room and there was Reggie Jackson, the star of the team. Nixon became a little boy looking up at an idol while they shared stories. Nixon was ecstatic, and I made pictures. Reggie then excused himself to go out onto the field upon which Autry introduced Nixon to other players including Rod Carew.

Then it happened. We heard thunder coming down the stairs outside the clubhouse door like it was a herd of stampeding buffalo. It was my photo colleagues/competition who started wondering why I didn't come back to the dining table whereupon they put two and two together. I skunked them.

The next day my trio photograph made all the local papers and took the national play away from UPI. For the few following weeks some of the photographers refused to talk to me because I didn't share my secret plan. I heard they and others got a thorough talking to by their bosses on why they didn't get "the shot" of Jackson and Nixon together they were sent to get but AP did. Over time we became friendly colleagues once more -- until they were skunked again.

Keith Fuller – and his WWII experience as prisoner of war

Charlie Hanley - John Lumpkin's recall in Wednesday's Connecting of AP ex-chief Keith Fuller's World War II service (U.S. Eighth Air Force flyer and POW) recalled for me one of our late friend and colleague Marcus Eliason's favorite stories.

In the early '70s, as a local hire in Tel Aviv, Marcus was summoned to New York as part of his "regularization" process. Part of that process was a meeting with Keith, then personnel chief. As the two sat together in his 50 Rock office, Keith noticed Marcus's c.v., under Education, included correspondence courses from the University of London.

A smiling Fuller told Marcus he also once took correspondence classes from U of L – while he was a POW in a German Stalag.

Marcus was amazed, as perhaps many are even today in learning that the Nazis, apparently through the Red Cross, allowed such "self-improvement" mail exchanges, at least in the "Luft" Stalags for shot-down Allied airmen.

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[Claude Erbsen](#) - Following up on John Lumpkin's comments yesterday about Keith Fuller's POW experience, Keith himself often said he had been shot down over occupied France while on a mission to bomb Germany. So the files referenced by John are incorrect, and the Arlington obit is right.

I had the good fortune to be with Keith once in Paris, attending a very elegant luncheon in his honor hosted by his counterpart at Agence France Presse and his senior management team. I don't recall the timing or who was Paris COB at the time, but I think Dick O'Regan, then Executive Director for Europe, was there also. At one point Keith said something to the effect that "this is quite different from my first meal in France," This begged the question of "where?" and someone asked it. Keith replied with just one word: "Fresnes." You could have heard a pin drop.

Fresnes was, and remains, a high-security penitentiary south of Paris where many leaders of the French Resistance, as well as Allied spies and saboteurs, were held, tortured and often killed . It was also used as a holding pen for Allied POWs before their transfer to POW camps. With World War II not so far behind in the rear-view mirror of history, having been held at Fresnes was a badge of honor.

After a period of silence, Keith explained his presence at Fresnes, the unplanned name-drop having clearly made a deep impression.

Connecting series

Your stories of jury service

[Estes Thompson](#) - I've been reading about jury duty and vowed to stay silent, but I can't resist. I never served on a state jury while working 33 years for AP. My method was to answer the written summons the day after I received it and to cite allowable reasons under the law to be excused. It always worked. I know from talking to a clerk that being excused the day of a trial was hard because the court had a more limited pool of potential jurors. My bureau chief bristled at reworking staffing for jury duty so I became the go-to guy in the Raleigh bureau for managing jury summons. Never was called for a federal jury until I retired and when I was called discovered the feds didn't want people over 70.

Home again

[Norm Abelson](#) - On the first of each month, comes the list: those of us in our 80s and 90s who are still present. At unspecified times between, are the moving obituaries. And the photos of old friends happily meeting all over the place. Not to mention the opinions, the memories, news about the news,

This one-of-a-kind compendium of the goings-on of some 1800 folks from in and around journalism is rightly called *Connecting*, because that is what it does, time after time after time.

What was your favorite car...did you ever serve on a jury...what is the most memorable story you covered. Sometimes the subjects are funny as hell; at others we are educated, or enraged by injustices, or moved close to tears. As well, I've made some terrific new friends.

For me, *Connecting* is a rejuvenation, a return to my beginnings in the news business. In a way, at my 93rd birthday (3/16), this re-connection has peeled away the years and made me feel a sprightly eighty-five again.

Is Kid retiring or on vacation?

John and Faith Wylie - Creators of the Newspaper in Education (NIE) feature **For the Kid in You** are retiring. The Kids' future depends on someone like you.

Publisher John M. Wylie II said, "We have enjoyed providing this feature for 30 years and thank our subscriber newspapers and countless kids."



John and Faith Wylie started their careers in Kansas City in 1974 before buying the *Oologah (Okla.) Lake Leader* in 1984. They transformed it into Oklahoma's most honored community weekly.

They sold the paper in 2017 but couldn't leave the **Kid** and its fans—twens, parents, and teachers—adrift.

The **Kid** was born when metro dailies pushed NIE in the *Leader's* growing area. News Editor Carolyn Estes and Faith created the **Kid** and got sponsors for hundreds of copies at the target grades. Fund-raisers included a downtown golf tournament using balls soft enough to bounce off spectators or windows.

Carolyn became a national NIE leader, giving seminars on how newspapers could use such programs. The **Kid** soon syndicated statewide and nationally to dozens of weeklies and dailies.

Over its 30 years, teachers were less strained by standardized testing and could use that time for lessons drawn from newspapers, letting even smaller school districts use the papers. (The **Kid's** history vanished in a fire.)

As newspaper counts waned, and space in survivors drooped, revenues could no longer cover the costs of research, writing, photography, editing, and producing

finished features.

Although the industry was contracting, more than a dozen papers begged to keep the feature going. Multiple subscribers were interested in adopting the **Kid**, if they could add staff to do the feature. The Wylies hope newspapers' growing non-profit structure may offer an answer.

"We will provide the copyrights, assets, and startup advice in exchange for a donation receipt," said Faith (flwylie@att.net).

Kids Robin Read and Libby Smart hope it will happen.

On the glance back at old technology

Robert Wielaard - My thanks to Paul Albright for sharing that AP Printer Code Chart (in Wednesday's Connecting). In the Brussels buro in the early 1980s, we printed copy on a keyboard that punched holes into yellow tape, which we then fed into a line to London with a slow-as-molasses speed of 50 bauds.

It was a system of constant grief. When Brussels fed a tape to London, we cut off a tape Amsterdam was transmitting to London via Brussels. We knew that was the case when the Brussels filing system suddenly spewed out yellow tape — part of the Amsterdam tape that didn't make it to London.

Next came a frank call from AP Amsterdam asking why only part of their copy had made it to London.

That heavy steel Brussels Teletype transmitter was called 'Table 19.' (A reference to its weight in tons, no doubt). We schlepped it to Luxembourg and back when the EU had meetings there. I got quite good at reading punched tapes. Ah, yes, I had journalism's best years!

Daily Beacon editor was a pioneer

EDITOR'S NOTE: This letter to the editor on our colleague Becky Barber Trefren appeared recently in The Albuquerque Journal and is shared by former Journal editor (and AP Portland and Albuquerque bureau chief) Kent Walz. Becky died Feb. 15 at the age of 73,

DANNY TRUJILLO - I was heartbroken to learn of the passing of Becky (Barber) Trefren, formerly editor of the Grants Daily Beacon in Grants (N.M.) She was also on staff at the Annapolis Capital newspaper in Maryland and served in public relations for the Port of Baltimore.

I was blessed to work for her as a sportswriter/photographer at the Beacon from 1973-77. We were both just kids then, me, barely out of high school with no degree or training in journalism, and Becky only three years my senior but already turning heads in the newspaper business. We suffered through many growing pains together and Becky's patience with me was biblical in proportion.

She and her mom, publisher Mrs. James B. Barber, were the tough, no-nonsense Dynamic Duo who guided us to become an award-winning publication, even against the ABQ Journal and other papers with circulation numbers many times bigger than ours. This was at a time when women owning and managing a newspaper was unheard of.

The Barbers always remained true to the paper's namesake – the Beacon – a shining light empowering little girls everywhere to dream big and to make their dreams a reality, even in the male-dominated field of journalism at the time.

Our successes came from Becky and "Mrs. B" treating us as family, not simply as employees. And just like any family, we laughed together, cried together, fought like cats and dogs, but always with an abiding love that made us stronger together. Their insistence that we be firm, fair and consistent in our news reporting served me well later in life during my 26-year career as a corrections officer when I found out that "firm, fair, consistent" is a motto of the N.M. Department of Corrections.

As people turn more and more to social media for "breaking news," and readership of print journalism continues to wane, I have to admire Becky and her mom as newspaper pioneers in New Mexico, especially as women fighting for their right to be.

The site where the Grants Beacon was printed half a century ago is now just a vacant lot covered by weeds in our little dusty town. But I still smile every time I drive by as memories of the Barbers and our Beacon Family fill my heart again.

RIP, Becky, you were one of a kind.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Myron Belkind](#)

[Michael Giarrusso](#)

[Debbie Rusolo](#)

Stories of interest

Newsroom at 'New York Times' fractures over story on Hamas attacks (NPR)

By David Folkenflik

Tensions at The New York Times over an investigative report on Hamas' use of sexual violence in the October 7th attacks have erupted into the open over the past week with fresh conflict surfacing nearly every day.

The Times crisis reflects a series of cultural divides – between the conventional newsroom and the paper's ascendant audio division; between management and many of the rank-and-file; between factions with differing reactions to the war in Israel and Gaza; and between the two sides of yawning industry chasm over whether to handle dissent internally or air it in public.

The Times Guild, the newsroom union representing nearly 1,500 journalists at the paper, filed a formal grievance yesterday with the paper, saying The Times had violated the terms of its contract. The guild accused top news executives of "targeted interrogation" of journalists of Middle Eastern descent in an investigation of how word of such dissent leaked to The Intercept and other news outlets.

The Guild's announcement said its members "faced extensive questions about the involvement in [Middle Eastern North African employee group] events and discussions and about their views of the Times' Middle East coverage."

The New York Times has denied the union's claims.

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

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LA Times' First-Ever Power List on Hold, Subject of Publisher Clash With Former Editor | Exclusive (The Wrap)

By Sharon Knolle and Sharon Waxman

The Los Angeles Times put on hold an L.A. Power List that was scheduled to be published last Sunday, and that was previously a subject of conflict between publisher Patrick Soon-Shiong and former executive editor Kevin Merida, TheWrap has learned.

The Power 101 list, ranking top power players and notable figures in Los Angeles, was a project over a year in the making, run by Chris Stone and Joel Rubin, deputy managing editor and associate editor for new initiatives, respectively. It was executed

under former editor Merida, who sought to create a vehicle that would highlight the Times' credibility and create conversation.

But Merida and owner Soon-Shiong clashed over whether the list should be a newsroom project, according to four individuals who spoke to TheWrap.

"Is this something the newsroom should be doing?" the publisher questioned. "Why is the newsroom involved and not the opinion section?" said an individual close to the project.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Linda Deutsch.

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VA secretary rescinds memo seeking to ban photo of WWII sailor kissing woman on V-J Day (The Hill)



V-J Day in Times Square, a photograph by Alfred Eisenstaedt, was published in Life in 1945 with the caption, "In New York's Times Square a white-clad girl clutches her purse and skirt as an uninhibited sailor plants his lips squarely on hers"

BY ELLEN MITCHELL

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Denis McDonough on Tuesday rescinded a department memo meant to ban the famous World War II photo of a Navy sailor kissing a woman in New York's Times Square.

"Let me be clear: This image is not banned from VA facilities – and we will keep it in VA facilities," McDonough tweeted along with the black-and-white image known as "V-J Day in Times Square."

The tweet came hours after a copy of a memo from RimaAnn Nelson, the VA assistant secretary for health for operations, was shared widely on social media.

The memo, sent to the Veterans Integrated Services Network Directors on Feb. 29, requested the photo be removed and replaced at all VA facilities to maintain a "safe, respectful, and trauma-informed environment."

Nelson writes that the photo "depicts a non-consensual act" which is "inconsistent with the VA's no-tolerance policy towards sexual harassment and assault."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

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The Fight to Free Evan Gershkovich (Time)

By Charlotte Alter

Growing up in the Soviet Union in the 1960s and '70s, Mikhail Gershkovich and Ella Milman learned to be careful. Children knew not to repeat what their parents said in their kitchens.

Mikhail recalls his father, who grew up under Stalin, offering a piece of advice: If you're going to tell a political joke, "make sure there are no witnesses."

Mikhail and Ella both emigrated to the U.S. in 1979, seeking to escape rising antisemitism and life under Soviet rule. They met in Brooklyn in the 1980s, got married, and raised an American family in suburban New Jersey. Their daughter Danielle took swimming and gymnastics. Their son Evan played soccer. "Here, we can relax," says Mikhail. "Just find yourself. Decide what you want to do."

Evan Gershkovich decided he wanted to be a journalist, a calling that took him back to his parents' homeland. He had grown up speaking Russian, and wanted to use his familiarity with the language and culture to pursue his career. He worked as a reporter for the Moscow Times, Agence France-Presse, and the Wall Street Journal. When Ella worried about him writing articles critical of the Russian government or economy, her son explained that he was an "accredited journalist," his mother recalls, repeating the phrase as though it were a magic shield.

Read more [here](#).

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Iowa Journalist Wins Five-year Fight for Press Credentials (VOA)

By ROBIN GUESS

An Iowa journalist who was denied press credentials for five years has finally been granted access to the state House of Representatives after filing a lawsuit.

Laura Belin runs “Bleeding Heartland,” a self-described community blog focused on Iowa politics. She is also the statehouse reporter for KHOI community radio station in Ames, Iowa.

For the past five years, Belin has had to cover legislative proceedings from the public gallery or via online streaming after her repeated applications for credentials were denied.

“I think it was based on the content I publish and my viewpoint,” Belin said. “I have been very critical of the Republican leadership in the Iowa legislature and the executive branch. And the Republican legislators were very aware of my work.”

Belin first applied for press credentials to cover the Iowa House in 2019. The request was denied. Applications made every year since ended in denial too. Belin says the house clerk told her that independent journalists cannot receive credentials.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - March 7, 2024



Today is Thursday, March 7, the 67th day of 2024. There are 299 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history:

On March 7, 1965, a march by civil rights demonstrators was violently broken up at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, by state troopers and a sheriff's posse in what became known as “Bloody Sunday.”

On this date:

In 1876, Alexander Graham Bell received a U.S. patent for his telephone.

In 1911, President William Howard Taft ordered 20,000 troops to patrol the U.S.-Mexico border in response to the Mexican Revolution.

In 1916, Bavarian Motor Works (BMW) had its beginnings in Munich, Germany, as an airplane engine manufacturer.

In 1926, the first successful trans-Atlantic radio-telephone conversations took place between New York and London.

In 1936, Adolf Hitler ordered his troops to march into the Rhineland, thereby breaking the Treaty of Versailles and the Locarno Pact.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. forces crossed the Rhine at Remagen, Germany, using the damaged but still usable Ludendorff Bridge.

In 1975, the U.S. Senate revised its filibuster rule, allowing 60 senators to limit debate in most cases, instead of the previously required two-thirds of senators present.

In 1994, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that a parody that pokes fun at an original work can be considered "fair use." (The ruling concerned a parody of the Roy Orbison song "Oh, Pretty Woman" by the rap group 2 Live Crew.)

In 1999, movie director Stanley Kubrick, whose films included "Dr. Strangelove," "A Clockwork Orange" and "2001: A Space Odyssey," died in Hertfordshire, England, at age 70, having just finished editing "Eyes Wide Shut."

In 2005, President George W. Bush nominated John Bolton to be U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, an appointment that ran into Democratic opposition, prompting Bush to make a recess appointment.

In 2013, the U.N. Security Council voted unanimously for tough new sanctions to punish North Korea for its latest nuclear test; a furious Pyongyang threatened a nuclear strike against the United States.

In 2016, Peyton Manning announced his retirement after 18 seasons in the National Football League.

In 2017, the Indianapolis Colts released injured quarterback Peyton Manning, who went on to play for the Denver Broncos.

In 2020, health officials in Florida said two people who had tested positive for the new coronavirus had died; the deaths were the first on the East Coast attributed to the outbreak.

In 2022, the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine deepened as Russian forces intensified their shelling and food, water, heat and medicine grew increasingly scarce in what the country condemned as a medieval-style siege by Moscow to batter it into submission.

Today's birthdays: International Motorsports Hall of Famer Janet Guthrie is 86. Actor Daniel J. Travanti is 84. Entertainment executive Michael Eisner is 82. Rock musician Chris White (The Zombies) is 81. Rock singer Peter Wolf is 78. Rock musician Matthew Fisher (Procol Harum) is 78. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Lynn Swann is 72. R&B singer-musician Ernie Isley (The Isley Brothers) is 72. Rock musician Kenny Aronoff (BoDeans, John Mellencamp) is 71. Actor Bryan Cranston is 68. Actor Donna Murphy is 65. Actor Nick Searcy is 65. Golfer Tom Lehman is 65. International Tennis Hall of Famer Ivan Lendl is 64. Actor Mary Beth Evans is 63. Singer-actor Taylor Dayne is 62. Actor Bill Brochtrup is 61. Author E.L. James is 61. Author Bret Easton Ellis is 60. Opera singer Denyce Graves is 60. Comedian Wanda Sykes is 60. Actor Jonathan Del Arco is 58. Rock musician Randy Guss (Toad the Wet Sprocket) is 57. Actor Rachel Weisz is 54. Actor Peter Sarsgaard is 53. Actor Jay Duplass is 51. Classical singer Sebastien Izambard (Il Divo) is 51. Rock singer Hugo Ferreira (Tantric) is 50. Actor Jenna Fischer is 50. Actor Tobias Menzies is 50. Actor Sarayu Blue is 49. Actor Audrey Marie Anderson is 49. Actor TJ Thyne is 49. Bluegrass singer-musician Frank Solivan is 47. Actor Laura Prepon is 44. Actor Bel Powley is 32. Poet and activist Amanda Gorman is 26. Actor Giselle Eisenberg (TV: "Life in Pieces") is 17.

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!

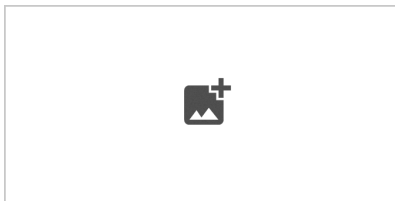
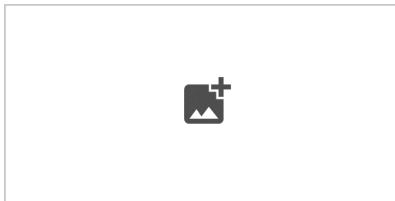
Here are some suggestions:

- **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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