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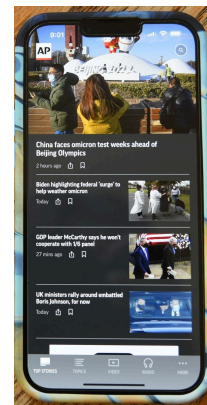
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Connecting

April 8, 2024

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this April 8, 2024,

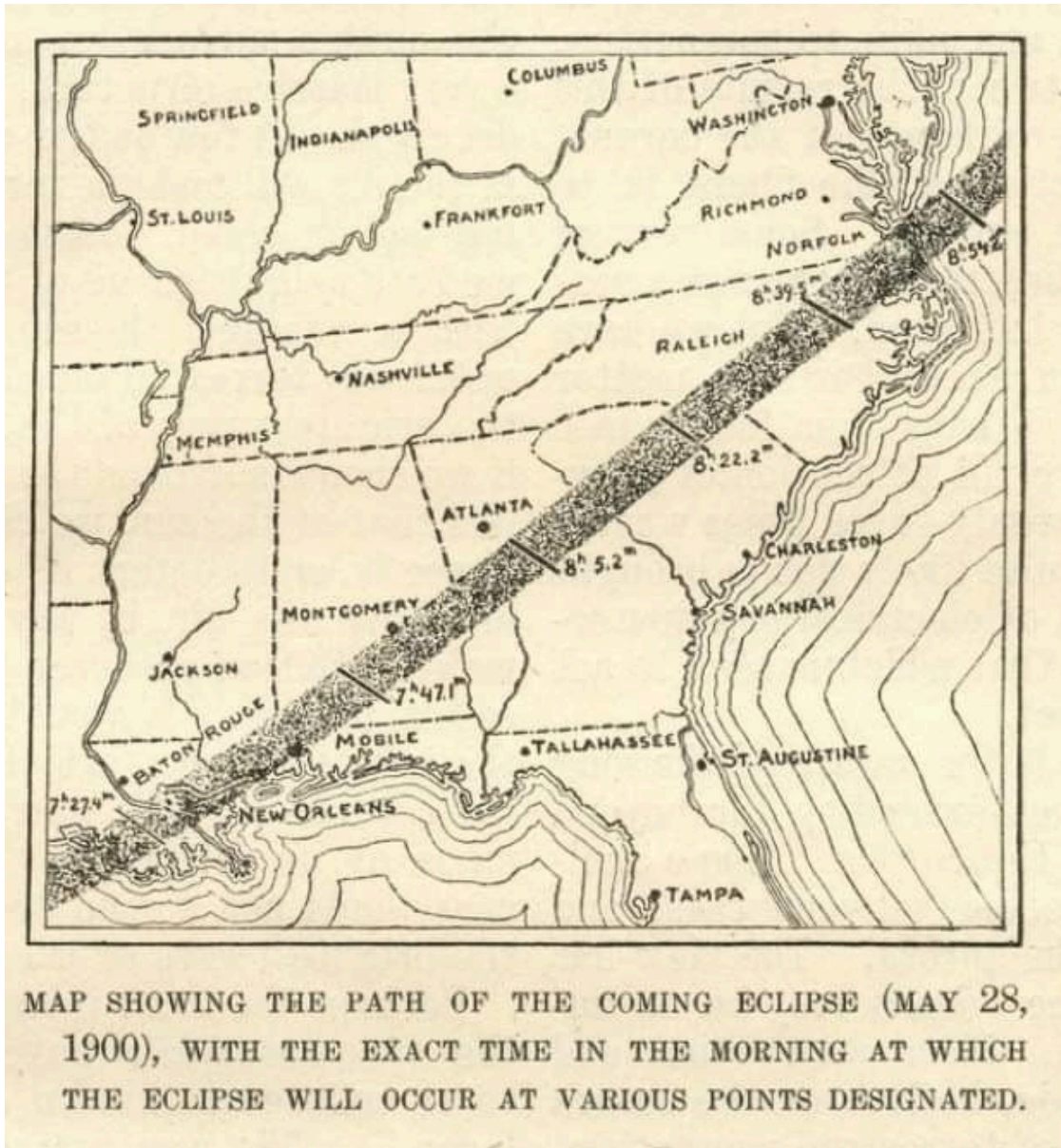
Ready for today's eclipse? Connecting looks forward to your stories (and photos) as our colleagues in its path record history.

ERIC RISBERG TO RETIRE: Word is out that San Francisco's **Eric Risberg** is retiring after 42 years as a staff photographer for The Associated Press. His last day is April 12. From Janie Har, San Francisco newswoman: Eric is a globetrotter, having covered famous people and famous events in China, the former Soviet Union, Cuba and the Persian Gulf. I think he has smoked a few cigars with some of those famous people as well. He's covered the World Series, Super Bowls and the Olympics. Moreover, he's been a generous friend and colleague to many of us. We wish him all the best in enjoying his well-deserved retirement.

Here's to a great week – be safe, stay healthy, live each day to your fullest – and remember, do not look directly into the sun if you're eclipse watching.

Paul

Story of an eclipse from more than century ago



Ed Williams - My grandmother Dealie Diamond Darby was born on a farm in 1893 in Conecuh County, Alabama.

She told me that as a child, she and her brothers and sisters were working in the field when there was a solar eclipse.

My grandmother said the community had learned in the Farmers' Almanac about an impending eclipse that year, but they didn't know exactly when it would occur.

The sky got completely dark, and my grandmother, her twin brother Ealie and their siblings (11 children in the Diamond family) had trouble seeing their way home. The

chickens were roosting and crickets chirping their evening songs when they got home.

When daylight began returning their roosters started crowing.

On this eclipse day, April 8, 2024, I wish I had some chickens.

When I think of eclipse, I think of Richard Horwitz



© Robert Meyers

Robert Meyers - I can't think of an eclipse without thinking of our Connecting colleague Richard Horwitz, who I worked with in London where he was assistant to

Horst Faas. Richard photographed dozens of eclipses including special voyages where he mentored others in getting their own pictures of eclipses.

I experienced full totality in Brevard, NC, in 2017 (photo above). I was planning my route to totality for more than a year. Austin, Texas, was my first choice but flights for this time period have been consistently highly inflated for a year. I woke up with a plan to drive to Indiana but the weather forecast looks very cloudy until you get to north Vermont and Maine which I believe had a significant snowfall this week. I heard an NPR radio report a few days ago with Maine communities wondering where everyone arriving would go to the bathroom. I guess I'll look to being in Africa for the next one.

A new primary dictionary for the AP Stylebook

By Nicole Meir

During a panel at the ACES: The Society for Editing national conference in San Diego on Friday, AP Stylebook Editor Paula Froke announced that Merriam-Webster is now the Stylebook's official dictionary, among other updates.

The switch to Merriam-Webster is the AP Stylebook's first change to its primary dictionary in decades. The full changeover will take effect when the AP Stylebook, 57th Edition, is published on May 29.

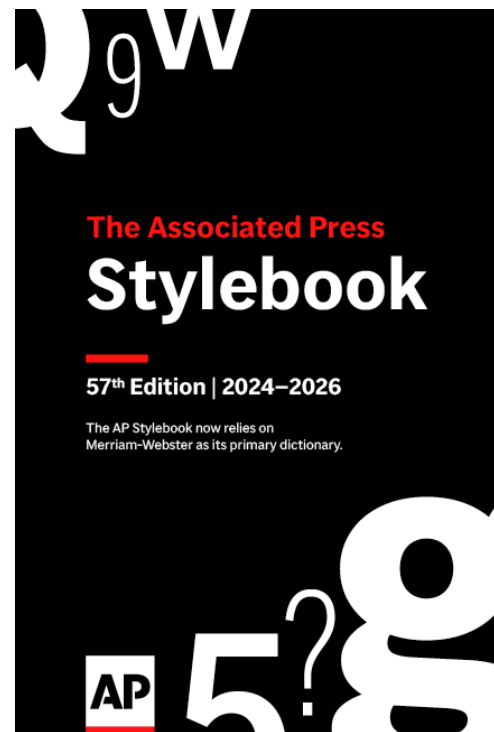
Peter Sokolowski, editor at large of Merriam-Webster, joined the ACES session alongside Froke to announce the collaboration.

Froke also announced new and updated AP Stylebook entries that are now available on AP Stylebook Online. They include:

Expanded guidance on climate change, expanding AP's use of the term climate crisis and adding new entries including community solar, geothermal, lithium ion, energy transition and hydrogen.

Revised guidance on bulleted lists, saying not to use a period after a single word or a phrase in each item in a list. Do, however, use a period at the end of a complete sentence in a bulleted list.

Consolidation of commonly used prefixes into one prefixes entry, and of commonly used suffixes into one suffixes entry. And a change for consistency: We no longer generally use a hyphen with these prefixes: out-, post-, pre-, re-.



Updated guidance on the terms Native Americans, Indigenous people(s) and American Indians.

The AP Stylebook is the definitive resource for journalists and a must-have reference for writers, editors, students and professionals. It provides fundamental guidelines for spelling, language, punctuation, usage and journalistic style, and helps writers and editors in all fields navigate complex and evolving language questions. Find AP Stylebook on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and online.

Still a loyal newspaper reader at 100



At 100 years young, Evelyn Patterson believes in keeping current with the news, especially that of her beloved Denver Broncos and Colorado Rockies. She is shown here at her home in Fort Collins a couple weeks after her 100th birthday March 22 - reading the Coloradoan, which she's subscribed to since moving there in 2005. Before that, for 44 years, she was a subscriber to the Colorado Springs Gazette.

This loyal newspaper reader grew up in central Nebraska and after high school moved to Omaha for a job. There, she met Bert Patterson, a communications officer stationed at Crook AFB, now Offutt AFB. They married in 1947 and began a journey, courtesy of the Army/Air Force, that took them to Biloxi, Tacoma, Nome and Fairbanks, Cape Cod,

Newburgh (NY), Montgomery, Colorado Springs, Wiesbaden (Germany) and Arlington (Pentagon). Back in Colorado Springs a second time, he retired from the U.S. Air Force and began work there in Civil Service before retiring after 36 years of total federal government service. In 2005 they moved to Fort Collins, several months before Bert died.

All the while, newspapers were part of her life.

Evelyn has two daughters, Pat Nickle of Lenexa, Kan., and Diane Gustafson, of Fort Collins; five grandchildren; nine great grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild.

Want to drop her a note? Send to Ye Olde Connecting Editor – stevenspl@live.com – and I will be sure to get it to her.

AP honors college basketball players of the year



AP's Nancy Nussbaum poses for a photo with Iowa's Caitlin Clark after giving her the AP NCAA Women's Player of the Year award Thursday, April 4, 2024, in Cleveland. (AP Photo/Morry Gash) Nancy, who is Senior Director of Global Customer Communication based in Columbus, remarked to Connecting, "Caitlin was so humble, she introduced herself to me. 'Hi, I'm Caitlin.'"



Purdue center Zach Edey, Associated Press Men's Player of the Year, poses with Associated Press Sports Products Director Barry Bedlan during a news conference ahead of the Final Four college basketball games in the NCAA Tournament, Friday, April 5, 2024, in Glendale, Ariz. (AP Photo/David J. Phillip) Barry, who is Global Products Director for Text, Data and New Markets based in Dallas, is 6-6 yet gives up 8 inches of height to the Purdue star.

Scene from Anja Niedringhaus memorial in Bronx



Shared by Robert Reid.

Today is 50th anniversary of Hank Aaron's 715th home run



AP Photo/Harry Harris

Bill Hendrick – My memories on the 50th anniversary of Hank Aaron's home run record 715th:

I was assigned to go to left field in case Hank hit the ball there and told to find the person who caught it. It was nuts. Elbow to elbow. The ball was caught by relief pitcher Tom House in the bullpen. I have no recollection of how I reached him. And there must have been 10 or more of the "big guys" from NY, the best sports writers and special correspondents, who made the trip. I'd been with AP for three years and was in awe of those guys. Monday is the 50th anniversary.

And my story:

Atlanta Bullpen Pitcher Catches Famous Home Run

By BILL HENDRICK
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) - "Someday when I'm an old man watching television I'll see myself on the other end of history," said Tom House, a reserve pitcher for the Atlanta Braves who caught Henry Aaron's record-setting 715th home run Monday night.

The 25-year-old Californian said he was thrilled just to witness the event, much less be a part of it. He said it was the high point of his baseball career.

"I was hoping in spring training that I'd get a chance to make the club just to see him, to see the record set," said House, who had a 4-2 record for the Braves last season.

"I looked up and there it was, coming in my direction," said the young pitcher, who leaned against the left-center field wall to make the catch in the bullpen. "I thought, it's coming to me, it's coming to me. "All the ball players let me have it. I saw it coming all the way and I caught it right at the base of the back wall," House said. "I caught-it and all I could think about was putting it in Hank's hand." The blonde-haired pitcher said he had jokingly told Aaron before the game that he would retrieve the historic home run but never really believed he would have a chance at it.

"I told him, "Hammer, if I get it, I'm going to put it in your hand. And that's what I did," he said.

After the 400-foot shot, when Aaron's teammates converged on him as the sellout crowd of more than 53,000 roared its approval, House kept his jestful promise.

"I put it right in Hank's hand," the young pitcher said. "He said, 'Thanks, kid,' when I gave it to him. It was a very emotional moment for him and me, too," said House, who added he wasn't sure if Aaron knew his name or not.

Rewards ranging from \$25,000 to \$36,000 had been offered for the home run ball, but House said he never considered doing anything but giving it to Aaron. "I'll admit, I didn't do the businessman-like thing. I figured it was a mighty expensive decision. But

I am sure that anyone else who could have got it (in the bullpen) would have done the same thing."

House holds a masters degree in marketing from the University of Southern California. Before the game, pitchers in the bullpen discussed what they would do if Aaron's homer landed in their territory.

"We kidded around a lot, but I think anybody would have done what I did. The decision I made at the time was the right one.

"As far as baseball is concerned, this is the biggest thing that has ever happened to me," said House.

Magnavox Television Corp.-which sponsors Aaron--offered to give House the TV set of his choice after he gave the ball to the slugger. "I wasn't expecting anything, so this is better than nothing. All the talk about money was just kidding. For being a fringe player, just being able to play with Henry is reward enough," House said.

The historic shot triggered 11 minutes of bedlam in Atlanta Stadium as a standing room only crowd of 53,775 cheered the soft-spoken Alabama native who claimed baseball's most cherished record. A call of congratulations came from President Nixon while the famous No. 44 was still in the game.

Baseball Commissioner Bowie Kuhn, who ordered the Braves to play Aaron in Cincinnati Sunday, called him "one of the greatest we have ever seen."

Kuhn's order renewed a controversy. Aaron's 34-ounce bat probably ended it, at least temporarily. It undoubtedly will be remembered for years.

"If God didn't see fit for me to hit the home run here, then I would have hit it somewhere else," Aaron said at a post-game news conference. Did he feel a big weight had been lifted from his back? "Oh, you don't know," he replied. "This would have to be my top thrill in baseball," said the man who holds more than a dozen major league records. "It wasn't one of my better ones, but the wind helped to carry it," he said. "I hit it fairly good. It was a fast ball. It was inside, but I think he wanted it further inside. He just hung it a little."

Downing, a 13-year-veteran who had yielded only two other homers to Aaron, left the game after walking the next two hitters following Hammerin' Hank's blast that drew the Braves even at 3-3.

Atlanta went on to win the game, 7-4. The Dodger hurler vanished from the ball park, leaving behind only a tape-recorded message in which he said, "Like a great hitter, when he picks his pitch, he's pretty certain that's the pitch he's looking for and chances are he's going to hit it pretty good."

BEST OF THE WEEK — FIRST WINNER

AP team jumps into action to lead the pack on stunning Baltimore bridge collapse



The call arrived a little after 3 a.m. That's when Baltimore reporter Lea Skene learned from her editor that the Francis Scott Key Bridge had just crumpled into the river below.

With Deputy Director of Global News Coordination Tamer Fakahany writing the first alerts, Skene sprang into action and got a key fire department official on the phone. That allowed the AP to quickly give accurate details. Editors Christie Hampton, Shameka Dudley-Lowe and David Cohen filed the first alerts and urgents. And soon a team of AP reporters, photographers and video journalists joined in to deliver coverage that earned 2.2 million page views on the first day of the story and huge play in newspapers around the world.

Skene was AP's first journalist on the scene at the foot of the bridge, getting there before roads became snarled and the site became even more difficult to reach. She supplied information from the scene throughout the day and into late the next afternoon, anchoring AP's coverage.

Read more [here](#).

BEST OF THE WEEK — SECOND WINNER
AP unfurls long-in-the-works investigation into 'lethal restraint' by police



AP compiled and shared the most comprehensive database on a topic of deep national interest, deaths during police restraint, and told engaging stories to illustrate the disturbing trends.

It all began three years ago, born from a call for global investigation proposals of the highest ambition. Along the way, the project picked up several dozen AP journalists across a wide footprint, dozens of students from two journalism schools and PBS' "Frontline." Just take a glance at the credits page, which lists around 180 names across organizations. The result was "Lethal Restraint," a collaborative investigation that used 7,000 public records act requests to document more than 1,000 deaths stemming from police using "less-lethal force" over the course of a decade.

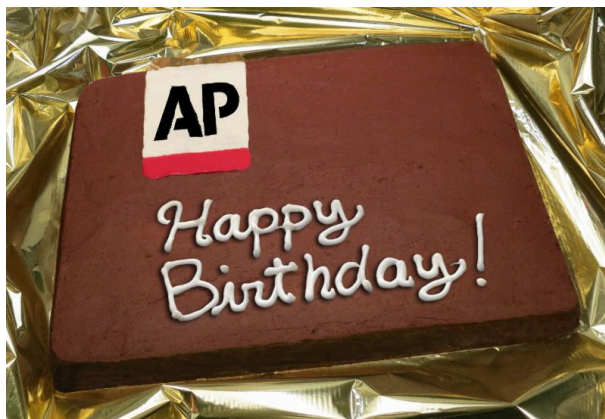
Reporters gathered hundreds of thousands of pages of documents and hundreds of hours of police video. Tracking and analyzing all the information required entirely new project management tools. Reporters logged tens of thousands of data points using the documents and video, much of it exclusive. Fact checkers vetted every footnote before AP shared the database publicly, via an interactive presentation site of uncommon sophistication and quality designed by collaborators at "Frontline." Photographs of families in key cases humanized victims, while motion graphics illustrated key concepts.

The reporting was unrivaled. The federal government has failed at tracking these deaths. While media have tracked police shootings, and private groups have tracked police killings overall, no one has focused so deeply and so broadly on deaths that didn't involve a firearm — deaths that can be easier to explain away. Despite suppression of records by police and other authorities, reporters identified hundreds of cases that had never appeared in what limited data the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention keeps on deaths after police encounters. Deep analysis of each case meant the first-day mainbar had both sweep and depth, while the sidebars and second-day stories focused in on the lives and stories of the victims. A narrative built

around the death of Austin Hunter Turner in Bristol, Tennessee, received more than four minutes of engagement time per visit over the weekend — an astounding number. A major localization effort included giving members exclusive body camera video specific to their area.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Deborah Hastings](#)

Stories of interest

AI's Next Terrifying Leap: Verification

By DAN PERRY

Many who experience generative artificial intelligence reach the same two quick conclusions. First: It's amazing, since it writes and reasons better than many of my colleagues! Second: It's terrifying, since it writes and reasons better than many of my colleagues! For the fretters there has been a single saving grace: AI messes up.

How badly? Comically. People who couldn't come up with a short story to save their lives ask ChatGPT to find a review of their latest novel and then delight when the bot finds one. My job is somewhat safe, they think. But if they're smart, a little voice might add: For now.

This inability to trust the results of queries (delivered though they are with what reads like supreme assurance) has been at the center of several panel discussions I've been on about AI and journalism. For now, the industry is being very careful with AI. But an obvious question hangs in the air: What happens if they fix the problem? After all, if there's one thing that applies to all technology except Microsoft updates, it's that it keeps improving.

Read more [here](#).

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Republicans Rebuke Colorado GOP for Ejecting Journalist From Event (Newsweek)

Story by Rachel Dobkin

Republicans have rebuked the Colorado GOP on Saturday on social media for ejecting a journalist from a statewide event.

Sandra Fish, a political reporter for The Colorado Sun, was escorted out of the state GOP assembly on Saturday after being told hours before the event by a Colorado GOP event organizer that she was no longer allowed to attend the assembly and then going anyway. The Colorado GOP chooses its candidates for the November election at the assembly.

Fish was removed from the event after being told that Colorado GOP chairman Dave Williams, who is running for U.S. Congress, found her "current reporting to be very unfair," according to The Colorado Sun. Fish has covered politics since 1982 and Colorado Sun editor and co-founder Larry Ryckman called her an "experienced, accomplished journalist."

State Republicans criticized Fish's removal from the event on X, formerly Twitter.

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

Today in History - April 8, 2024



Today is Monday, April 8, the 99th day of 2024. There are 267 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 8, 1974, Hank Aaron of the Atlanta Braves hit his 715th career home run in a game against the Los Angeles Dodgers, breaking Babe Ruth's record.

On this date:

In 1513, explorer Juan Ponce de Leon and his expedition began exploring the Florida coastline.

In 1864, the United States Senate passed, 38-6, the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolishing slavery. (The House of Representatives passed it in January 1865; the amendment was ratified and adopted in December 1865.)

In 1911, an explosion at the Banner Coal Mine in Littleton, Alabama, claimed the lives of 128 men, most of them convicts loaned out from prisons.

In 1913, the 17th Amendment to the Constitution, providing for popular election of U.S. senators was ratified.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered a freeze on wages and prices to combat inflation.

In 1952, President Harry S. Truman seized the American steel industry to avert a nationwide strike.

In 1973, artist Pablo Picasso died in Mougins (MOO'-zhun), France, at age 91.

In 1990, Ryan White, the teenage AIDS patient whose battle for acceptance had gained national attention, died in Indianapolis at age 18.

In 1992, tennis great Arthur Ashe announced at a New York news conference that he had AIDS.

In 1993, singer Marian Anderson died in Portland, Oregon, at age 96.

In 2010, President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed the New START treaty in Prague.

In 2012, Bubba Watson saved par from the pine straw and won the Masters on the second hole of a playoff over Louis Oosthuizen.

In 2013, former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, 87, died in London, while actress and former Disney "Mouseketeer" Annette Funicello, 70, died in Bakersfield, California.

In 2018, Patrick Reed won the Masters golf tournament for his first victory in a major.

In 2020, a 76-day lockdown was lifted in the Chinese city of Wuhan, where the global pandemic began.

In 2022, the movie academy banned Will Smith from attending the Oscars or any other academy event for 10 years following his slap of Chris Rock at the Academy Awards.

In 2023, Ben Ferencz, the last living prosecutor from the Nuremberg trials, who tried Nazis for genocidal war crimes and was among the first outside witnesses to document the atrocities of Nazi labor and concentration camps, died at age 103.

Today's Birthdays: Author and Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Seymour Hersh is 87. "Mouseketeer" Darlene Gillespie is 83. Singer Peggy Lennon (The Lennon Sisters) is 83. Songwriter-producer Leon Huff is 82. Actor Stuart Pankin is 78. Rock musician Steve Howe (Yes) is 77. Former House Republican leader Tom DeLay is 77. Movie director John Madden is 75. Rock musician Mel Schacher (Grand Funk Railroad) is 73. Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., is 69. Actor John Schneider is 64. "Survivor" winner Richard Hatch is 63. Rock musician Izzy Stradlin is 62. Singer Julian Lennon is 61. Actor Dean Norris is 61. Rock singer-musician Donita Sparks (L7) is 61. Actor Robin Wright is 58. Actor Patricia Arquette is 56. Actor JR Bourne is 54. Rock singer Craig Honeycutt (Everything) is 54. Rock musician Darren Jessee (Ben Folds Five) is 53. Actor Emma Caulfield is 51. Actor Katee Sackhoff is 44. Actor Taylor Kitsch is 43. Rock singer-musician Ezra Koenig (Vampire Weekend) is 40. Actor Taran Noah Smith is 40. Actor Kirsten Storms is 40. Actor Sadie Calvano 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 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:

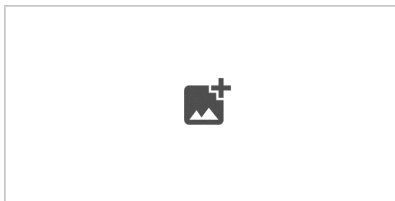
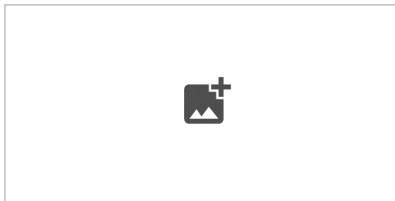
- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.

- **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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