



# Connecting

March 04, 2020

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*Floor supervisor John Hart gives instructions to the vote entry staff at the Spokane Data Center on Super Tuesday. AP tabulated results in 412 races in 14 states from SDC, the Eastern Election Center at AP*

Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the fourth day of March 2020.

Voters in 14 states and one U.S. territory delivered a split verdict Tuesday on who they think should be the Democratic Party's nominee to challenge President Donald Trump in November. Bernie Sanders won the delegate-rich state of California as well as Colorado, Utah and Vermont in Super Tuesday voting. Former Vice President made a strong comeback following early poor showings in Iowa and New Hampshire, and as of midnight EST had a slight lead in Texas. Biden held a slim lead in pledged delegates, 341 to Sanders' 289. A Democratic candidate must receive support from a majority of pledged delegates -- at least 1,991 of the total 3,979 pledge delegates.

Associated Press journalists and others collected the vote and analyzed it throughout the night. An AP analysis of the voting found that many Democratic voters made up their minds just before casting a ballot. Biden appeared to benefit from the indecision.

AP's coverage leads today's newsletter.

Paul Stevens is taking a well-deserved break from the Connecting editor's chair for a few days. Send your story ideas, comments and contributions to [markmitt71@yahoo.com](mailto:markmitt71@yahoo.com).

Enjoy the day!

Mark

## **Sanders wins top prize, California; Biden surges nationwide**

**By STEVE PEOPLES and WILL WEISSERT**

WASHINGTON (AP) - Bernie Sanders seized victory in Super Tuesday's biggest prize, California, while a resurgent Joe Biden scored wins in the upper Midwest and African American strongholds in the South, in a dramatic offensive. The two Democrats, lifelong politicians with starkly different visions for America's future, were battling for delegates as 14 states and one U.S. territory held a series of



*Bernie Sanders speaks during a primary night election rally in Essex*

high-stakes elections that marked *Junction, Vt. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)* the most significant day of voting in the party's 2020 presidential nomination fight. The clash between Biden and Sanders, each leading coalitions of disparate demographics and political beliefs, peaked on a day that could determine whether the Democrats select their nominee before the party's 2020 nomination fight will stretch all the way to the party's July convention or be decided much sooner. It was increasingly looking like a two-man race.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***AP VoteCast: Late deciders aid Biden, young loyal to Sanders***

**By JOSH BOAK and HANNAH FINGERHUT**

WASHINGTON (AP) - Many Democratic voters in Super Tuesday's presidential primaries made up their minds just before casting a ballot - and Joe Biden appears to be benefiting from their indecision. Late deciders in Alabama, North Carolina and Virginia broke for Biden, helping the former vice president win those states and capitalize on new momentum in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination. Sen. Bernie Sanders secured his home state of Vermont and Colorado, where voters were more likely to be liberal. The share of late deciders ranged from about a quarter of voters in Texas to roughly half in Minnesota, according to AP VoteCast surveys of voters in several Super Tuesday contests. Moderate and conservative voters in each state were slightly more likely than their liberal counterparts to delay a decision to the last minute.

Read more [here](#).

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## How old is this old AP teletype?

Carole Tarrant, former editor and managing editor at The Roanoke (Va.) Times, is asking AP friends for help in finding the era of this teletype printer, recovered from the paper's old pressroom. The housecleaning is part of the most recent sale of the newspaper. An employee, Brian Kelly, and a colleague salvaged it so it didn't get tossed. Kelly said he'd like to place a small sign near the printer about its history. They've put it in the newsroom "for safe keeping," he said. If anyone can shed light on the model and the approximate time it was used please write Kelly at [brian.kelley@roanoke.com](mailto:brian.kelley@roanoke.com).

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## Connecting mailbox

### ***Closing of Australian Associated Press is 'puzzling'***

**Carl Robinson** ([Email](#)) \_ Yes, the closing down of AAP (Australian Associated Press) after 85 years is indeed very sad news and I'm still finding the reasons a bit puzzling as "free content" on social media hardly equates with the straight hard news - from the deadly serious to the boringly mundane - of this hard-working news agency. On the positive side, there's already talk of some of the 500 laid-off journo's (as they're called down here) beefing up the news organisations, unlike the AP, who actually owned AAP.



I've known AAP since my very first day in Australia back in 1977, fresh from two years on the World Desk at 50 Rockefeller Plaza and the seven years before that with AP Saigon until '75, when I was faced with an immediate "identity crisis." Introducing myself from the AP, I'd often get a quick, "Oh, AAP." "No, I'm not with AAP," I'd mutter. "I'm from the Associated Press of America." Of America, dammit, and thankfully the accent helped.

Adding to our obscurity, the AAP -- first set up by Reuters -- in those days still monopolised all wire services coming into Australia as its foreign desk consolidated copy and sent out under its own byline. After a visit from then AP President Keith Fuller in early 978, that changed with AAP finally acknowledging AP and other wire services. But like any wire service, public recognition is always a challenge, isn't it? That's the job. That's what we do.

After leaving AP in June 1978, I settled in Australia and worked for Newsweek through the 80's, a restaurant in the 90's and a mixture of travel and writing after that.

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## ***Throwing shade on the Sunshine State***

**Bruce Lowitt ([Email](#)) \_ On this date:  
In 1845, Florida became the 27th state.**

As a relocated New Yorker and 34-year resident of the Sunshine State, my personal apologies to the other 49.

Or, as Stephen Colbert said of the Coronavirus during the opening of his Monday night show: "The virus has begun to hit us at home. After diagnosing two new cases, Florida declared a public health emergency. Health officials want to caution anyone living in Florida that they are living in Florida."

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## ***More newspapers in art***

**Kevin Walsh ([Email](#)) \_ Spotted at the Museo de Arte Popular de Yucatan in Merida, Mexico. This newspaper seller is an example of cartonera, the Mexican tradition of paper mache sculpture. The folk art often takes a humorous tone, focusing on characters from every day life.**



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# Welcome to Connecting



Ellen Miller - [ellenmiller@acsol.net](mailto:ellenmiller@acsol.net)

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## Stories of interest

### ***Nunes sues Washington Post for \$250 million over Russia intelligence briefing story (Washington Examiner)***

Rep. Devin Nunes filed a lawsuit for \$250 million in damages against the Washington Post and intelligence reporter Shane Harris, alleging that a story from the paper related to a classified House Intelligence Committee briefing on Russian interference amounted to defamation. "This action arises out of a WaPo hit piece that was manufactured out of whole cloth," the California Republican's 23-page Monday complaint said. "Billionaire Jeff Bezos purchased WaPo in 2013 for the purpose of using WaPo's mighty pen to influence Federal elections." Kris Coratti Kelly, the Washington Post's vice president of communications, defended the paper and its reporters.

Read more [here](#).

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### ***Page: Lessons in the fall of my friend Chris Matthews (Chicago Tribune)***

With the suddenness of a Hollywood drama, MSNBC commentator Chris Matthews went out with his own Howard Beale moment. Beale, you may recall, is the deranged news anchor played by Peter Finch in the movie "Network" who famously leads his nation of viewers in shouting, "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore." Beale's ratings go up, but - spoiler alert - things don't end well for him. Matthews didn't raise that much drama when he abruptly announced his retirement Monday as host of MSNBC's daily political show "Hardball" - and turned over the anchor chair to a visibly stunned political correspondent Steve Kornacki during a commercial break - but he came close.

Read more [here](#).

## ***Waldman: Why we shouldn't miss Chris Matthews (The Washington Post)***

The career of Chris Matthews, who has been a cable news talking head almost as long as cable news has existed, has apparently come to an end. Matthews's departure seems to be most directly about sexism, but it also - hopefully - signals the possibility of getting rid of a certain kind of faux-populist punditry that we'd be better off without.

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

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## ***Former CNN anchor Bobbie Battista has died at 67 (CNN Business)***

Atlanta (CNN Business) \_ Former CNN anchor Bobbie Battista has passed away at the age of 67, according to a family spokeswoman. Battista died on Tuesday morning after a four-year battle with cervical cancer, according to Wendy Guarisco, family spokeswoman. "Bobbie was the consummate trooper in her struggle with cancer, she was courageous and fearless in her battle and thoughtful for all the others in her life even as she fought through the pain," Battista's husband John Brimelow said in a statement on Tuesday. "My dear partner of 25 years of marriage has cut her earthly bonds and is now in peace." Battista was one of the original CNN Headline News anchors when the network launched in 1981. She anchored several news programs on CNN, including "TalkBack Live," which aired before a studio audience in the CNN Center in Atlanta, featuring newsmakers and public participation.



Bobbie Battista

Read more [here](#).

## **The Final Word**

### ***Sportswriting's future may depend on the Athletic, which is either reassuring or terrifying (The Washington Post)***

In the four years since it launched, the Athletic has offered lifelines to hundreds of journalists. When Fox Sports fired all of its sportswriters in 2017, the Athletic scooped up many. When ESPN did layoffs in 2017, the Athletic was there. Last year, when the entire staff of the New Orleans Times-Picayune was laid off, sports editor Jennifer Armstrong "was pretty afraid that my sports journalism career was going to be over," she said. Instead, she landed at the Athletic. The Athletic is an ever-expanding behemoth at a time when many of its competitors - daily newspapers, magazines, websites - are shrinking or shuttering. Last year alone, Deadspin imploded and Sports Illustrated laid off more than a third of its staff. The Athletic kept hiring,



and it now employs around 430 journalists in the United States and the United Kingdom, likely the largest stable of sportswriters and editors in the industry. (ESPN has around 400 comparable reporters and editors, plus hundreds more who work in TV and other parts of the newsroom.)

Read more [here](#).

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## Today in History - March 4, 2020



Today is Wednesday, March 4, the 64th day of 2020. There are 302 days left in the year.

On March 4, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated for a second term of office; with the end of the Civil War in sight, Lincoln declared: "With malice toward none, with charity for all."

### **On this date:**

In 1789, the Constitution of the United States went into effect as the first Federal Congress met in New York. (The lawmakers then adjourned for lack of a quorum.)

In 1791, Vermont became the 14th state.

In 1793, George Washington was sworn in for a second term as president of the United States during a ceremony in Philadelphia.

In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge's inauguration was broadcast live on 21 radio stations coast-to-coast.

In 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt took office as America's 32nd president.

In 1964, Teamsters president James Hoffa and three co-defendants were found guilty by a federal court in Chattanooga, Tennessee, of jury tampering.

In 1966, John Lennon of The Beatles was quoted in the London Evening Standard as saying, "We're more popular than Jesus now." (After his comments caused an angry backlash in the United States, Lennon sought



to clarify his remarks, telling reporters, "If I had said television was more popular than Jesus, I might have got away with it.")

In 1974, the first issue of People magazine, then called People Weekly, was published by Time-Life Inc.; on the cover was actress Mia Farrow.

In 1977, some 1,500 people were killed in an earthquake that shook southern and eastern Europe.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan addressed the nation on the Iran-Contra affair, acknowledging that his overtures to Iran had "deteriorated" into an arms-for-hostages deal.

In 1994, in New York, four extremists were convicted of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing that killed six people and injured more than a thousand. Actor-comedian John Candy died in Durango, Mexico, at age 43.

In 1998, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that sexual harassment at work can be illegal even when the offender and victim are of the same gender.

Ten years ago: A Hollister, California, man with a history of severe psychiatric problems opened fire at a Pentagon security checkpoint; John Patrick Bedell, 36, wounded two police officers before being killed by police. Two Germans and two Turkish men were convicted in Duesseldorf over a foiled 2007 plot to attack U.S. targets in Germany and given prison sentences ranging up to 12 years. Turkey, a key Muslim ally of the United States, angrily withdrew its ambassador after a congressional committee approved a resolution branding the World War I killing of Armenians a genocide. (The measure, however, was never taken up by the 111th Congress.)

Five years ago: The trial of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev (joh-HAHR' tsahr-NEYE'-ehv), charged in the Boston Marathon bombing, began with a statement from his attorney that the 21-year-old former college student committed the crime but did not deserve to die due to the malevolent influence of his dead older brother, Tamerlan (TAM'-ehr-luhn); prosecutors called to the witness stand three women who suffered severe injuries in the blasts. (Tsarnaev was convicted and sentenced to death.) The Justice Department cleared Darren Wilson, a white former Ferguson, Missouri, police officer, in the fatal shooting of Michael Brown, an unarmed black 18-year-old, but also issued a scathing report calling for sweeping changes in city law enforcement practices. A House committee investigating the Benghazi, Libya, attacks issued subpoenas for the emails of Hillary Rodham Clinton; the subpoenas from the Republican-led Select Committee on Benghazi came the same day The Associated Press reported the existence of a personal email server traced back to the Chappaqua, New York, home of Clinton.

One year ago: Lottery officials announced that a South Carolina resident had come forward to claim the \$1.5 billion Mega Millions jackpot from the previous October but chose to remain anonymous; the jackpot was the largest payout to a single winner in U.S. history. Actor Luke Perry, who'd gained instant heartthrob status on the TV show "Beverly Hills, 90210," died in Los Angeles after suffering a massive stroke; he was 52. Juan

Corona, who'd gained the nickname "The Machete Murderer" for hacking to death dozens of migrant farm laborers in California in the early 1970s, died at the age of 85; he'd been serving a life sentence in state prison.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Paula Prentiss is 82. Movie director Adrian Lyne is 79. Singer Shakin' Stevens is 72. Author James Ellroy is 72. Former Energy Secretary Rick Perry is 70. Singer Chris Rea is 69. Actor/rock singer-musician Ronn Moss is 68. Actress Kay Lenz is 67. Musician Emilio Estefan is 67. Movie director Scott Hicks is 67. Actress Catherine O'Hara is 66. Actor Mykelti (MY'-kul-tee) Williamson is 63. Actress Patricia Heaton is 62. Sen. Tina Smith, D-Minn., is 62. Actor Steven Weber is 59. Rock musician Jason Newsted is 57. Actress Stacy Edwards is 55. Rapper Grand Puba is 54. Rock musician Patrick Hannan (The Sundays) is 54. Rock singer Evan Dando (Lemonheads) is 53. Actress Patsy Kensit is 52. Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla., is 52. Gay rights activist Chaz Bono is 51. Actress Andrea Bendewald is 50. Actor Nick Stabile (stah-BEEL') is 50. Rock musician Fergal Lawler (The Cranberries) is 49. Country singer Jason Sellers is 49. Jazz musician Jason Marsalis is 43. Actress Jessica Heap is 37. Actor Scott Michael Foster is 35. TV personality Whitney Port is 35. Actress Audrey Esparza is 34. Actress Margo Harshman is 34. Actor Josh Bowman is 32. Actress Andrea Bowen is 30. Actress Jenna Boyd is 27.

**Thought for Today: "I want to live my life so that my nights are not full of regrets." [-] D.H. Lawrence, English author (1885-1930).**

## Got a story or photos to share?

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:

- **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?

- **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.

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

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