

Connecting - March 16, 2020

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Connecting

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 16th day of March 2020,

Our colleague **Julie Pace** ([Email](#)), AP's Washington chief of bureau, will no doubt remember her birthday today for many years to come.

The bureau was temporarily closed Friday after a staffer who had direct contact with a possible coronavirus patient showed some symptoms of illness. The AP closed the office out of “an abundance of caution” and told staffers there to work from home until at least Tuesday, said Executive Editor **Sally Buzbee**. At last report, the office was to be deep cleaned and the AP journalist who attended the conference was awaiting test results.

I asked colleague **Walter Mears**, longtime AP Washington bureau chief and political writer, if he ever recalled the bureau being closed. He did not, and added, “On my watch, closing would have really shut things down because it was the teletype era. In the computer age, we can still operate even with the bureau itself closed.”

We lead with the bureau closing story in today's edition – and we bring you more of your colleagues' experiences with the coronavirus pandemic that is creating huge changes in our lives, seemingly moment to moment. Your own story is welcomed.

One last note: As editor of this daily online AP newsletter for the past eight years, I'm not exactly a Luddite. But this past Saturday morning, I sure missed having a newspaper on my driveway for the first Saturday morning in my life, The KC Star (and other McClatchy group papers) discontinued Saturday home delivery starting today and because the same carrier also home delivers the New York Times with the Star, I no longer get either (the Times will deliver its Saturday paper with the Sunday paper...sigh.) What horrific timing given the news of the day.

Have a safe and good day as we start a new week.

Paul

Associated Press closes DC office amid coronavirus fears

By The Associated Press

The Associated Press said Friday it would temporarily close its office in Washington, D.C. after a staffer who had direct contact with a possible coronavirus patient showed some symptoms of illness.

The staffer was one of hundreds of journalists at the NICAR journalism convention in New Orleans from March 5-8. The conference announced to participants late Tuesday that an attendee had tested positive for the virus, and AP journalists who attended the event were asked to work from home from that point forward. All employees in the office were offered the option to work from home beginning Wednesday.

In the days afterward, the staffer fell ill, and disclosed that they had direct contact with the suspected coronavirus patient. An AP colleague of the staffer also showed some symptoms. In the wake of those developments, the AP closed the office out of “an abundance of caution” and told staffers there to work from home until at least Tuesday, said Executive Editor Sally Buzbee.

The office will also be deep cleaned, said Lauren Easton, an AP spokesperson. The AP journalist who attended the conference is awaiting test results, and the second AP journalist is seeking testing.

The news agency’s White House, political and campaign coverage will continue, and vote count and race calling operations will go on without interruption. Video and audio operations are also anticipated to continue as normal, Buzbee said.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover.

The Associated Press has also allowed staffers at its global offices, including in New York, London, Rome and Beijing, to work from home given the encouragement for social distancing, but this is the first office to be fully closed.

The Associated Press receives support for health and science coverage from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Click [here](#) for link to this story.

Your stories on coronavirus pandemic

Notes from Ground Zero

Ken Fields ([Email](#)) - My family and I live in a suburb of Seattle in Snohomish County, ground zero for the start of the coronavirus outbreak in the U.S. The first person who tested positive for the virus here was a man who flew in from Wuhan, China, in mid-January and soon exhibited symptoms. The news was greeted with shrugs by most people because the local authorities had identified the people who rode on the airplane and the airport shuttle with him and were monitoring the situation. The next reports concerned the Life Care Center of Kirkland in nearby King County where the virus was spreading among the nursing home residents and then a student at our local high school who tested positive. The student recovered quickly and his parents did not contract the virus.

Following those last reports, hand sanitizer, rubbing alcohol and toilet paper began disappearing from our local stores' shelves. Statewide cases are now at about 720 with 42 deaths. Most of the deaths are from the Life Care Senior home in nearby King County. We are staying home and ordering supplies online, but items like paper towels, toilet paper and sanitizers are not currently available from Costco online ordering. Amazon Fresh isn't taking orders because delivery schedules are full. We had a brief scare when my 3-year-old granddaughter Elie became ill with the symptoms of the virus. She was taken to the emergency room and quickly tested for the flu and found to have Influenza type-A, which her parents came down with despite having had flu shots. I never thought I would be relieved to hear that members of my family had the flu!

The situation now, as more people take the outbreak seriously, is a statewide ban on gatherings of over 250 people and the closing of all schools in the state for six weeks. Companies are instructing their employees to work from home and are holding more online conferences. Our local libraries are closed along with day care centers and several stores. Delivery drivers are in demand as more people move to online ordering of supplies. A grocery store chain is looking to fill 2,000 delivery positions.

While local news sources keep us up to date, I take some comfort in knowing that some of my AP pals are on the job and reporting on the outbreak. AP photographer Ted Warren posted on Facebook that he was on location at the Life Care Center in Kirkland, filing reports from his car and using plenty of hand sanitizer.

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Coronavirus quarantine, London 2020

Wendy Davis Beard ([Email](#)) - Being disabled and needing a career means my husband and I must self-quarantine as a couple. We aren't symptomatic but with Johns' age (76), and respiratory history we must insure

neither of us take any chances of catching the coronavirus. We are bettered prepared for a lengthy “isolation” than most, as we have always worked in virtual-isolation together - wherever we are in the world (including our current studio residence in Greenwich, London)..

John, a full-time artist has one of the biggest and best light-filled studios anywhere, a former Wesleyan chapel with cathedral ceilings and skylights bright even on grey days! Without the threat of COVID-19, he would surely be in lock own anyway preparing for solo exhibitions in the UK and Australia in 2020.

We must assume they will not be canceled or postponed, in case by some miracle they are not, although the opening in London scheduled for 16 June is the most dicey date when the virus is expected to peak in the UK as reported in yesterday’s press conference by Boris Johnson with his chief medical advisers. The government may be forced to ban public gatherings especially for elderly attendees and those with underlying health conditions, as some Asian and other European countries have already decreed. While I am not sure if my stroke in 2007 makes me more vulnerable, I think it would kill me to give it to John, our 22-year-old daughter Eliza and her boyfriend, Angus (who currently works on AP planner in central London; they have moved to Angus’ parents in suburbia to protect us from possible contamination from their twice daily commute in rush hour on packed trains and platforms.

In the meantime we are enjoying the novelty of staying “in” to watch movies projected across a bare wall as big as in a cinema. We began this home entertainment viewing last Friday night before our “housemates” left on Saturday— we had already received our order from the local supermarket of pantry staples and treats Friday morning - to allow John some nights off cooking, including pizzas and popcorn.

Eliza chose the first “double feature (I only remember attending matinee double features as a child in Bellevue, Wash., and Greenwich, Conn. Here in London on our first movie night together we watched a crazy contrasting combination of the very topical film “Contagion” from 2011 (which begins in an eerily similar fashion as the coronavirus. Hopefully our current pandemic will not spiral out of control like the one faced by Gwyneth Paltrow and Matt Damons’ lead characters in America. We needed some levity after that and Eliza provided it with “Toy Story 4”, but we found even Woody and Buzz Lightyear confronted by some pretty menacing characters whilst stuck in a claustrophobic country town antique shop.

We shared pizzas before taste testing “Sweet & Salted” Popcorn which initially was a British novelty to me as strangely in America - arguably the film capital of the world, I am only familiar with salty, with the exception, (again from my youth) of “Cracker Jacks” previously advertised with the still unforgettable tune:

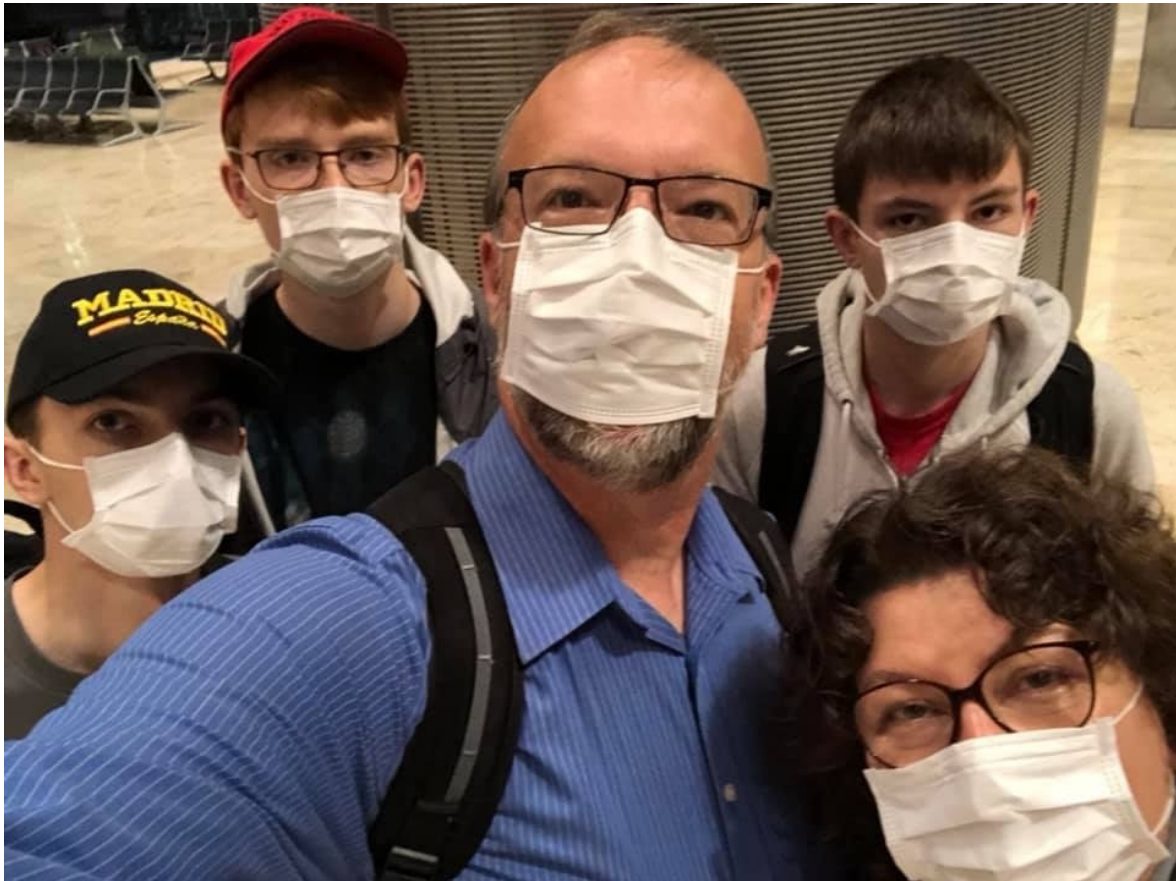
“Lip smacking, paddy whacking (surely not!?), peanuts and a prize, that’s what you get with Cracker Jacks, Cracker Jacks!”

Maybe I am already going cabin crazy after all!

Our order of hundreds of breathing masks many weeks ago - to be shared with family and friends here and in HK - seems to have been lost or stolen from the delivery system. We don't know if they were wiped by either profiteers some have already been caught red-handed selling small hand sanitizers and disinfectant sprays for unbelievably high prices on the black market, or (as we'd prefer to think), they've been confiscated by Health officials hoping to supplement the NHS stock pile amassed.

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A visit to Spain that will long be remembered



Barry Bedlan ([Email](#)) – When we arrived in Spain eight days ago, it was so full of life. COVID-19 was merely a footnote in this vibrant country with only 250 cases.

Sunday, we finally got to go home and the country has confirmed 6,391 cases to date — an average of nearly 900 cases each day we've been here. The picturesque plazas that were bustling full of locals and tourists just 72 hours ago are now deserted. Empty. Not one person.

I guess you could say we picked the absolute worst time to visit Spain.

Why didn't we leave sooner?

It's a long story.

First off, we wanted to make sure our oldest son who has been studying in Dublin could get back there without issue before we left Europe.

Secondly, the US Embassy in Madrid significantly reduced its staffing upon the president's announcement Wednesday night and the staff has not responded to our repeated emails and calls with questions since then. Sad.

Lastly, British Airways is caca. It referred all ticket change requests to its app and website, which either kept crashing or asked you to contact the local office. When I traveled all the way out to their ticket counters at the Madrid airport, I was told I needed to go to London to make any changes. Ha!

We will say that as we have witnessed the state of emergency in Spain and more lockdowns over the past 24 hours, we have been so impressed by the country's caring, loving people. No run on toilet paper or other essentials. People buying only what they need and making sure to leave other items at the store for their neighbors. Everyone has remained calm, civil and extremely hospitable, offering a good laugh and assistance to friends and even foreigners who can barely speak Espanol.

Gracias Espana ES for an amazing trip before it took an unbelievable turn. Even then, you were impressive.

Monday morning update from Barry:

The update is Spain now has 8,784 cases and we did make it home back about 15 hours later with no real issues, other than one of the boys failed to declare banana he forgot he stuck in his backpack as we left our Airbnb in Madrid, which caught the sent of a customs dog. That led to an extra 45 minutes in line for additional customs inspections.

The health screening at the DFW airport didn't take as long as we had worried based on the media reports from Saturday. All it entailed was a brief interview and filling out forms. They mostly just wanted to log when and where we had been and obviously ask if we were experiencing any symptoms.

My son, Parker, is set to come home too on Wednesday after his university ordered him to do so. He will now be able to claim he has been in Dublin for St. Patrick's Day but that may be the only extent of it as he doesn't plan to go out. Instead he will spend the day with the small group of special friends he has met there that he must now bid an early farewell.

In closing, I always ask my boys after each vacation what was their favorite part. For this one, they immediately answered "the people." They told of how the people of Spain were so relaxed and fun loving despite all the craziness going on. They said they would sum up Spain in one word: Chill. I have to agree.

Self- Isolation – One Way to Nut House

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - The world is currently in a pandemic condition due to the coronavirus. This old codger, being of an ancient age and subject to immediate death if I even see the bug a mile away, self-isolation. Ah yes, peaceful meditation in the safety of my home. Kitty, the love of my life, and I can now talk, debate, discuss, take naps, and just relax.

Are we kidding? The television news is in constant “Breaking News,” mode. (Remember FLASH, BULLETIN, BULLETIN MATTER, 95.” ETC. We journalists lived by the excitement and thrill of covering some big breaking news event. Now it is a constant alert. Relax and take it easy, and stay in a safe environment? Not so, old codger! Now you sit on the edge of your rocker and get charged up. How much charging can an old-time take?

An early conclusion: The world is on fire, in pain and panic; thousands of people dying each day, thousands more down and seriously ill. It seems the world is facing imminent catastrophe, and death.

But wait. How about my buddies and compatriot journalists? Gosh, they are out there day and night facing the solid wall of the unseen virus gangster. As always we journalists face the dangers of life, but this story is about unseen killers – trillions and trillions of them. Think of the photographers of the world (like I used to be) trying to take a picture of something so elusive that you can't even see it! I sit here now, but I can still imagine husky voiced Al Resch, the former Executive Newsphoto Editor in New York, screaming on the Wirephoto network, “Hey, Gene, where is the picture?” Ah, yes.

Bless those journalists of today who are out there day and night, facing possible sickness, or death, to keep the people of the world advised. Think of the mass of medical workers who are nose-to-nose with the victims of the virus. Think of the grocery workers, and all of the other people still serving to keep this nation from collapsing.

There are major problems facing the world, and this nation as well. It appears there is so much misinformation coming out of our government about what is going on, and how we are fighting the battle. President Trump, who has been downplaying the crisis, and, as at least one critic has been quoted as saying that Trump is doing so as to not impede his chances for re-election. Wow. Some religious leaders are still publicly supporting Trump. That may be, but the crisis worsens.

I've tried turning off the TV. But further isolation makes things worse for this old newshound. I know that if I get that little varmint that I am one dead soul. That thought doesn't help isolation and meditation.

My hometown area is the "Moonshine Capitol of the World." I think I will go to my rocking chair on the porch tonight have some while watching the Moon shine...

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'I'm in no hurry to die'

Ed Williams ([Email](#)) - *I'm not afraid of death, but I'm in no hurry to die. I have so much I want to do first.*

—Stephen Hawking (1942-2018)

Reminds me of the old story about the revival preacher who repeatedly exhorted, "Who wants to go to Heaven? Stand up!" Everyone stood except one old man, who stayed rooted in his seat. Finally, the preacher asked, "Brother Bob, don't you want to go to Heaven?" Bob answered, "Oh, yes, eventually--I thought you were getting up a group to go right now!"

30,000-plus days and counting

Norm Abelson ([Email](#)) - How does it feel to be 89? Well as the sun rose today, I found out.

The first, unsurprising, answer is not a heck of a lot different than the last day of being 88.

But numbers do count, so I look for some markers. I realized I am a mere 11 years away from the century mark. My parents married 93 years ago. On my birthday, Depression was spelled with a capital D, and booze was outlawed. Eighty-three years since beloved Great Grandfather Isaac (photo at right with me, circa 1936) died. Late brother Stephen's birth was 82 years ago. Seventy-one years past high school graduation. Sixty-seven years from my marriage and first AP writing assignment. Sixty-one years since son, David, entered my life. Forty-two years since Dad died.



But numbers aside, I'm not sure there's any absolute answer. Aches and pains? I've got my share. Brain function? Still spinning most of the time. Outlook on life? We're going through a pretty tough time, but not so bad that I don't want to hang around for a while longer.

Of course, the pandemic is pretty often in my thoughts. Never have I, as an individual, felt so small and insignificant. And guilty. We've assaulted Mother Nature in some egregious ways for a long time. It's difficult not to feel that with assaults on the environment, a monetized planet, and ignoring the plight of the downtrodden, we might be reaping the wild wind.

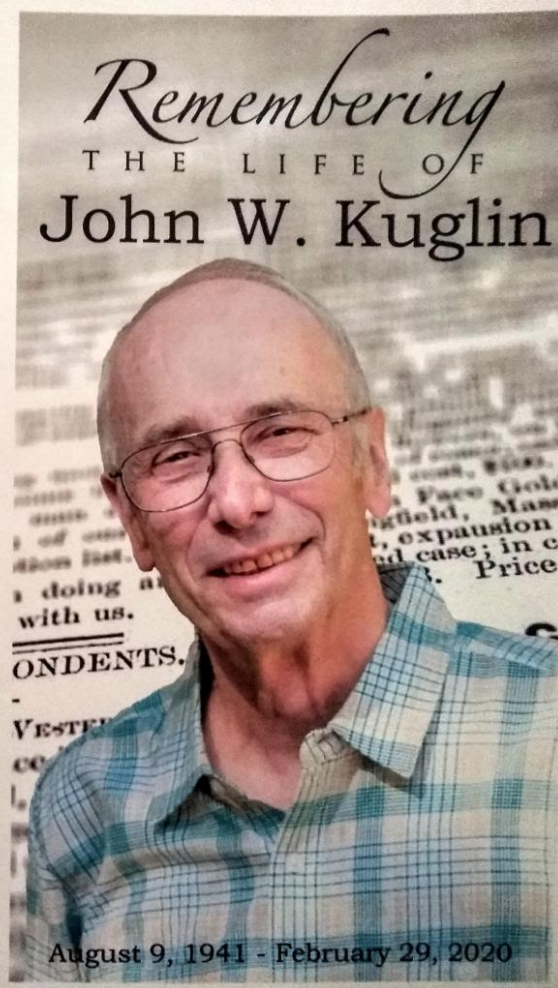
Like most folks in my age spectrum, I've experienced quite a lot of sadness and loss. I've learned not to let that dim all the good days, the incredible opportunities and the wonderful people who have come my way. Two remarkable women have eased my path, lit my years with their caring and love. Sons to make one proud. Two blessed grandchildren, Natasha and Misha, came all the way from Russia to adopt our family – and to help me remember what it was like to feel young.

So then how is it to be 89? Good enough for me to take out a new option on life, to hope for the best, to do what little I can to make things better, and pray that my stomach allows me to continue downing my beloved cheeseburgers – the kind with real meat.

Connecting mailbox

Memorial held Sunday honoring John Kuglin





Family, friends, current and former AP staffers and other colleagues gathered Sunday -- braving near-zero temperatures and substituting elbow bumps for handshakes -- to honor the memory of John Kuglin, retired AP chief of bureau in Helena, Montana, who died on February 29. (Shared by Len Iwanski)

The second photo shows John, wife Gale, son Tom, Tom's wife Dusty and John's grandson Bridger at the Kuglins' summer lake cabin in Wisconsin.

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Remembering Bob Zimmer

Dennis Conrad ([Email](#)) - Nice to read about Bob Zimmer after all these years (see Friday's Connecting). Though he and I worked out of separate Illinois AP bureaus (he in Champaign, me in Springfield), I got to know him over my first five years there until his sudden passing. He was definitely a good guy. Sometimes I had the unfortunate assignment of trying to fill in for him as the farm writer for the state report. My father was a West Virginia farm boy before joining the Army Air Corps, but that was my only qualification for covering agriculture as far as I was concerned.

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Victor Golikov never too busy to assist even most mundane requests

Tony Hicks ([Email](#)) - AP Deputy Director of International Photos based in London - Victor was always a friendly, welcoming and highly competent presence in the Moscow bureau, during what was a very turbulent time. Victor worked on some of the biggest stories of the late 20th Century but, was never too busy to assist with even the most mundane of requests. He became a stalwart of the European photo team.

(Victor Golikov, a former photo editor in the Moscow bureau of The Associated Press who helped the news cooperative's award-winning coverage of the demise of the Soviet Union and the political turmoil that followed, died Feb. 25 at the age of 60.)

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Linda Deutsch to receive honorary doctorate from Monmouth University

Linda Deutsch ([Email](#)) - In an effort to distract from the endless bad news, I thought I would share some good news which now has a bittersweet tinge given what followed. I received a call just over two weeks ago from Patrick Leahy, President of Monmouth University, informing me that I had been selected to receive an honorary doctorate degree from my beloved alma mater. I was thrilled beyond words and also delighted to learn that my co-recipient of an honorary degree would be Jack Ford, the former anchor of Court TV who covered the O.J. Simpson trial with me. How gratifying it is to see this recognition for two journalists in this era. HOWEVER, I'm now wondering if I will be able to go to New Jersey for the graduation at which I am scheduled to speak on May 13. I realize this is not the biggest concern in the universe right now. Yes, it would be a high point of my life. But I'm also concerned whether they would have to cancel graduation and how devastating that would be for the students. For now, I am staying at home, a luxury I can afford as a retiree. And I'm hoping somehow we will conquer this plague soon.

More on Harry Cabluck and his Tri-X film

Harry Cabluck ([Email](#)) - Thanks for asking about the video and pictures of the barber in Austin, Texas. The challenge was offered to photographers in 18 cities across the United States by Worthless Studios' Neil Hamamoto.

[This site](#) provides a rundown of his sponsors and intentions.

Departing New York City at the beginning of August and returning in the middle of November, the FREE FILM team will travel by road with converted mobile darkroom Airstream trailer to 18 cities across the country to distribute and process rolls of 35mm black and white film for free to anyone interested in participating in the project. Given a due date and the prompt phrase 'red white and blue,' participating photographers will have the opportunity to shoot their roll as an expression of what that means to them — the words, the phrase, the place, the dream, the reality.



Whether the photographer takes this opportunity to focus on their unique personal experiences that shape their life in America, or chooses to interpret the prompt more broadly by focusing on the tone, concept and connotations of the phrase “red, white and blue”, the end product will be an incredibly sincere amalgamation of different viewpoints, forever saving these four short months of the USA in black and white film.

Neil's picture is below, his email is: neil@worthlessstudios.com

Neil had about six of assistants handling various tasks from processing to editing. He had an allotment of 1,500 rolls of Kodak Tri-X black and white film. Each photographer was given one roll.



Inside the stripped-down Airstream trailer his crew had constructed a complete mobile chemical-optical (analog) darkroom. It was good enough to be wished for by any AP photographer working on a portable job, short of a World Series, Super Bowl or Olympics.

The red, white and blue of the pole at Rudy Trejo's barber shop is why he was selected...but not for the color to be depicted in black and white...but for the flavor of Americana. The pictures were shot in less than an hour one afternoon around October 24, 2019.

The Leica M-3 camera had not been used in more than 30 years, and the hinged back that usually just flops open had to be forced in order to load that roll of film. Was happy that the shutter had not frozen. Shot the take with only 50mm and 21mm lenses, and no flash-fill.

The camera, lenses and Sekonic light meter have served well on assignments for The AP and travels from China to Austria and Canada to Puerto Rico.

Best of the Week

AP Decision Desk caps stellar Super Tuesday with instant call: California for Sanders

AP's Decision Desk used AP VoteCast to call Bernie Sanders the winner of California as soon as polls closed in the biggest Super Tuesday state, then delivered analysis finding that Joe Biden would be the night's overall winner by the measure that matters most: delegates.

On Super Tuesday afternoon, AP's Stephen Ohlemacher and Emily Swanson were locked away in a conference room – isolated from their colleagues in the Washington bureau – to review incoming results from AP VoteCast. It was still hours before polls closed, but AP's survey – developed to be more accurate than traditional exit polling – was already revealing what was about to happen on the biggest night of the Democratic presidential primary campaign.

This was the election day ritual for Ohlemacher, who as AP's decision editor leads the team of race callers and analysts who will declare winners in more than 14,000 elections this year; and for Swanson, who as director of public opinion research designed the VoteCast survey with the Washington-based polling team. Before any votes are counted, and as voters are still casting ballots, they scour the data from AP VoteCast to try to determine who is going to win.

Read more [here](#).

Best of the States

Tennessee team does double duty when tornadoes strike on Super Tuesday



AP Photo/Wade Payne

When tornadoes tore through Middle Tennessee in the early-morning hours of Super Tuesday, AP staff deftly pivoted from preparing for the state's primary to covering a natural disaster.

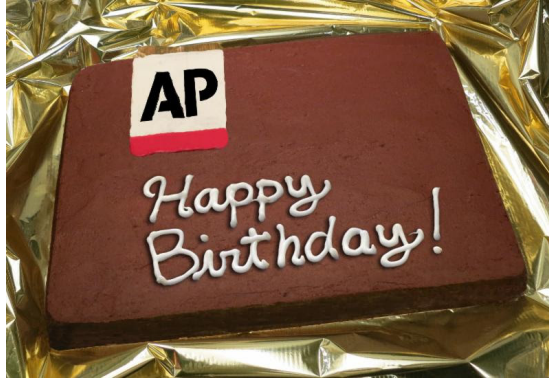
Just hours before polls were to open for Super Tuesday, tornadoes cut a lethal swath across central Tennessee, and AP staffers responded.

Despite a lack of power at their own homes, reporter Kimberlee Kruesi and video journalist Kristin Hall mobilized quickly, joined by their Nashville colleagues, reporters Travis Loller and Jonathan Mattise, and photographer Mark Humphrey. From first light on Tuesday, and throughout the day, they delivered compelling text, video and photos of the devastation that left at least 24 dead statewide.

Others engaged quickly as well, including Tennessee sports editor Teresa Walker, who drove to hard-hit Putnam County that afternoon for words and video, and Memphis correspondent Adrian Sainz, who connected the disaster to the primaries by monitoring its impact on voting, for national and state stories, including a court challenge seeking to keep polls open late.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

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Steve Hindy - shindy@brooklynbrewery.com

Julie Pace - jpace@ap.org

Colleen Newvine Tebeau - cnewvine@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Election-year spread of misinformation challenges local news

By DAVID KLEPPER

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — When a Republican running for Congress in the Chicago suburbs tweeted that her Democratic opponent’s town hall events were invite-only, they debunked it.

When Illinois’ Democratic governor said a pension change would save the state as much as \$25 billion, they rated that mostly false, too.

The Better Government Association is part of a new wave of local journalism outlets trying to stem the flood of misinformation that has increasingly spread to the local level, from congressional races to campaigns for city hall and school boards.

“There is a proliferation of misinformation, capitalizing on the Trump strategy of repeating something until people believe it,” said David Kidwell, a former investigative reporter at The Chicago Tribune who now leads the association’s fact-checking efforts. “It’s always gone on, but people are more attuned to it now and hungry for this kind of journalism.”

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

Legislative tracker sounds alarm on anti-transparency bills

By RYAN J. FOLEY

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — Amid growing concern about the expensive incentives promised to Amazon to land its new headquarters, Kentucky lawmakers considered a bill to shield its largest city's failed pitch from public scrutiny.

To open government advocates, the effort to hide Louisville's bid was an outrage that soon got worse: A House committee approved the bill with an amendment barring residents outside Kentucky from obtaining public records on any subject.

Labeled a "wrecking ball" to the public records law, the bill stalled last March amid opposition. But opponents are anxiously waiting to learn whether a similar measure will be introduced again.

"I fear that something's going to drop and it's not going to be good," said Amye Besenhaver of the Kentucky Open Government Coalition.

Advocates like her in all 50 states are getting a new tool to help identify legislation like the Amazon bill that affect the public's right to know — and give a glimpse of what's happening across the country.

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

Amid decline, newspapers press less for records in court

By AMY TAXIN

Shane Fitzgerald has pushed for public records in court to help his reporters uncover details of a destructive school fire, the police shooting of an inmate and a public defender who wasn't doing much work.

But there are many instances where his newspaper group in suburban Philadelphia has not, especially since the declines in the news industry walloped the budgets for local news coverage and left little to cover the costs of court fights for public access.

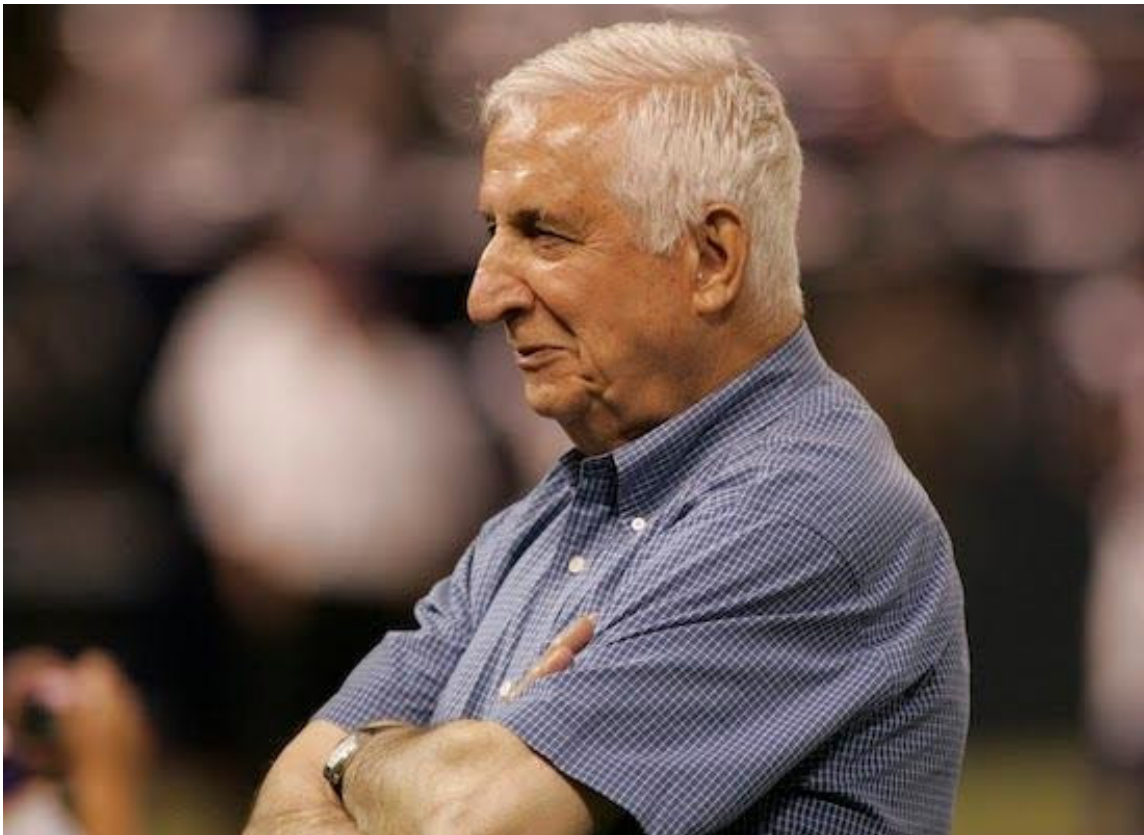
“You really have to assess your risk there, and, do you really have a shot at getting it?” said Fitzgerald, executive editor for the Bucks County Courier Times, The Intelligencer and the Burlington County Times. “It used to be you could go and file for open records and fight it a little bit on a hunch or on a theory or on some premise. That doesn’t really happen that much anymore.”

Newspaper industry declines have led to widespread mergers, massive layoffs and shrinking local coverage. According to an Associated Press analysis of data compiled by the University of North Carolina, more than 1,400 towns and cities in the U.S. lost a newspaper over a 15-year period.

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

The Final Word

Happy 100th to Sid Hartman



Minneapolis Star Tribune sports columnist Sid Hartman in 2009. (AP Photo/Paul Battaglia)

Tom Jones, The Poynter Report ([Email](#)) - A special birthday wish to longtime — and I do mean longtime — Minneapolis Star Tribune sports columnist Sid Hartman, who turned 100 on Sunday. Incredibly, Hartman still writes, including [this column](#) celebrating his 100th birthday. The Star Tribune [wrote several pieces](#) commemorating Hartman’s birthday.

Hartman sold newspapers on a street corner when he was 9 years old. He wrote his first column a week after World War II ended in 1945. Today, he writes 3-4 columns a week.

“I have followed the advice that if you love what you do, you never work a day in your life,” Hartman wrote in his Sunday column. “Even at 100 I can say I still love what I do.”

I worked in the sports department at the Star Tribune for three years and that makes me a “close personal friend” of Sid. For those who know him, you know what that phrase means: Everyone Sid ever met is a “close personal friend.”

Today in History – March 16, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, March 16, the 76th day of 2020. There are 290 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On March 16, 1926, rocket science pioneer Robert H. Goddard successfully tested the first liquid-fueled rocket at his Aunt Effie's farm in Auburn, Massachusetts.

On this date:

In 1521, Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan and his crew reached the Philippines, where Magellan was killed during a battle with natives the following month.

In 1802, President Thomas Jefferson signed a measure authorizing the establishment of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York.

In 1850, Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel "The Scarlet Letter" was first published.

In 1935, Adolf Hitler decided to break the military terms set by the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY') by ordering the rearming of Germany.

In 1945, during World War II, American forces declared they had secured Iwo Jima, although pockets of Japanese resistance remained.

In 1966, NASA launched Gemini 8 on a mission to rendezvous and dock with Agena, a target vehicle in orbit; although the docking was successful, the joined vehicles began spinning, forcing Gemini to disconnect and abort the flight.

In 1968, the My Lai (mee ly) massacre took place during the Vietnam War as U.S. Army soldiers hunting for Viet Cong fighters and sympathizers killed unarmed villagers in two hamlets of Son My (suhn mee) village; estimates of the death toll vary from 347 to 504. Senator Robert F. Kennedy of New York announced his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In 1987, Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis announced his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In 1991, a plane carrying seven members of country singer Reba McEntire's band and her tour manager crashed into Otay Mountain in southern California, killing all on board. U.S. skaters Kristi Yamaguchi, Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan swept the World Figure Skating Championships in Munich, Germany.

In 1994, figure skater Tonya Harding pleaded guilty in Portland, Oregon, to conspiracy to hinder prosecution for covering up an attack on rival Nancy Kerrigan, avoiding jail but drawing a \$100,000 fine.

In 2003, American activist Rachel Corrie, 23, was crushed to death by an Israeli military bulldozer while trying to block demolition of a Palestinian home in the Gaza Strip.

In 2004, China declared victory in its fight against bird flu, saying it had "stamped out" all its known cases.

Ten years ago: Attorney General Eric Holder told a House Appropriations subcommittee that Osama bin Laden would never face trial in the United States because he would not be captured alive. (The al-Qaida leader was shot dead by Navy SEALs in Pakistan in May 2011.) Lance Mackey won the 1,100-mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race to become the first musher in the event's 38-year history to win four consecutive races.

Five years ago: Los Angeles prosecutors filed a first-degree murder charge against real estate heir Robert Durst in the killing of his friend, Susan Berman, who had acted as Durst's spokeswoman after his wife, Kathleen, disappeared in 1982. (Durst is now on trial in Los Angeles.)

One year ago: Relatives waited for authorities to release the remains of the 51 Muslim worshippers killed in massacres at two mosques in the New Zealand city of Christchurch. Dick Dale, whose power-chord instrumentals on songs including "Miserlou" and "Let's Go Trippin'" earned him the title King of the Surf Guitar, died at the age of 83.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Ray Walker (The Jordanaires) is 86. Game show host Chuck Woolery is 79. Singer-songwriter Jerry Jeff Walker is 78. Country singer Robin Williams is 73. Actor Erik Estrada is 71. Actor Victor Garber is 71. Country singer Ray Benson (Asleep at the Wheel) is 69.

Bluegrass musician Tim O'Brien (Hot Rize; Earls of Leicester) is 66. Rock singer-musician Nancy Wilson (Heart) is 66. World Golf Hall of Famer Hollis Stacy is 66. Actor Clifton Powell is 64. Rapper-actor Flavor Flav is 61. Rock musician Jimmy DeGrasso is 57. Actor Jerome Flynn is 57. Folk singer Patty Griffin is 56. Movie director Gore Verbinski is 56. Country singer Tracy Bonham is 53. Actress Lauren Graham is 53. Actor Judah Friedlander (FREED'-lan-duhr) is 51. Actor Alan Tudyk (TOO'-dihk) is 49. Actor Tim Kang is 47. Rhythm-and-blues singer Blu Cantrell is 44. Actress Brooke Burns is 42. Actress Kimrie Lewis is 38. Actor Brett Davern is 37. Actress Alexandra Daddario is 34. Rhythm and blues singer Jhene Aiko is 32. Rock musician Wolfgang Van Halen is 29.

Thought for Today: "No man, for any considerable period, can wear one face to himself, and another to the multitude, without finally getting bewildered as to which may be the true." [-] From "The Scarlet Letter" by Nathaniel Hawthorne, American author (1804-1864).

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.

Paul Stevens

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