

Connecting - March 19, 2020

1 message

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 19th day of March 2020,

Diana Heidgerd ([Email](#)) issues this challenge to her fellow Connecting colleagues:

Since everything is about the coronavirus, I think it's a good time to take a breath and look back at how this glorious journalism adventure began for us all. I'm challenging you to be brave and submit your first (or very early-in-your career) photo press pass, with just a sentence or so description.

I'm taking the dive by offering my very first press pass, from 1980 back in my home state of South Dakota when I was news director at KIJV Radio in Huron (my first full-time journalism

job). Note big hair, maiden name Jensen.

Since almost 1,500 of us get this weekday blog (that's what my buddy editor Paul Stevens has told me), I figure it will give him a good non-virus item for AP Connecting each day until this pandemic eases.

So be brave -- share -- and let's all take a few moments to remember how we looked before COVID-19 entered our vocabulary.

While I rummage around for my first press pass, we lead today's issue with more of your coronavirus stories.



Coronavirus Topical Guide - To help with coverage of the new coronavirus disease, called COVID-19, The Associated Press has prepared a guide based on the AP Stylebook and common usage in AP stories. Click [here](#). You can follow AP coverage of the virus outbreak at [this link](#). And click [here](#) for link to Understanding the Outbreak.

How are you coping with living your life in the age of coronavirus and the uncertainty of when the pandemic will end and our lives restored to normal? I hope you share your own stories - and perhaps, your suggestions on how to be happy and productive with each and every precious day we're given.

Be healthy and safe.

Paul

A trip of lifetime to Antarctica cut short – in Argentina



Top photo: The Hancocks in front of Catedral Metropolitana de Buenos Aires; bottom: scene at Buenos Aires's Ezeiza International Airport.

Bill Hancock ([Email](#)) - My wife, Nicki, and I embarked Wednesday on the trip of a lifetime, to Antarctica. It was to be our seventh continent. Two hours before our flight was scheduled to leave DFW airport, we read an article that

said travelers from the USA and the other affected countries would be quarantined 14 days in Argentina.

We rushed to inquire at the American Airlines desk. Folks there assured us that it was “fake news” that all was well. So, we gritted our teeth and boarded the plane toward three days in Buenos Aires before our 88-passenger cruise ship would depart from Ushuaia on the southern tip of Argentina.

The guide who showed us around Buenos Aires had heard the same news, but couldn't verify it because “there is a great deal of uncertainty. I'm 70 percent sure you will be fine.” So we saw as much of the lovely Buenos Aires as possible—including the subway stop used by Pope Francis enroute to his cathedral, and the balcony where Eva Perone addressed the people—and even flew north and spent Friday enjoying Iguazu Falls in 97-degree weather. A few people wore masks, but Uguazu National Park was crowded with happy tourists. Argentinians referred to COVID-19 as “The virus.”

After we relaxed over Italian food and wine on the veranda of a restaurant in Puerto Iguazu, a text arrived from our cruise company. “Anyone who has passed through the USA must be quarantined 14 days. We are sorry but we cannot allow you to board the ship.” Folks who broke the quarantine would be subject to time in jail.

Missing Argentina and losing our fares was significant enough, but being in Argentina either (1) on the lam or (2) incarcerated, would have been much worse. On top of that, we learned that American Airlines would be suspending flights to Argentina in two days.

We scrambled to book a flight to Miami, and joined hundreds of other Americans at Buenos Aires's Ezeiza International Airport. Most shared our weird emotional stew of sadness, frustration and relief. I could not keep from thinking about the Saigon embassy in a much more life-threatening time.

Back home in Kansas City and now working remotely, we know we were lucky. Antarctica? Wait 'til next year.

Coronavirus a challenge to keeping up healthy routine



Former AP Midwest Photo Editor Cliff Schiappa, left, is seen last week with two of his pickleball friends, Jane Garrison, and Puwanai “Ping” Peksrichai at DeMuth Park in Palm Springs, CA.

Cliff Schiappa ([Email](#)) - In November 2018 my doctor suggested I lower my weight and blood pressure. Both weren't high, but they weren't where he wanted them. So I began a concerted effort to watch my diet, crank up my gym workout and increase my cardio with bike riding, hiking, and pickleball. Being a fairly recent retiree to an area with weather that encourages outdoor activities, I found it easy to do things that helped me toward my physician-prescribed goals. (Lost 20 pounds and BP is normal).

Fast forward to March 2020, and I find it ironic my gym has been closed for health-related reasons. Residents of Palm Springs, California are being told to shelter in place except for essential services, and when out and about, maintain a six-foot social separation.

The Desert Sun, an award-winning Gannett newspaper serving Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley, reports the demographics of my new hometown is 40 per cent elderly with many who are immuno-suppressed... communities especially susceptible to the ravages of Covid-19. But officials are well-aware of the value of social interaction upon those in that cohort, so our small city has a perplexing conundrum.

Assuming Palm Springs' emergency order, which is effective Wednesday morning, follows the protocols of San Francisco, there are some exceptions including 21 types of business that may remain open. That list includes

groceries, gas stations, doctors, pharmacies, banks, media outlets and hardware stores.

One exception that delighted me is allowing residents to take part in physical activities such as hiking, biking, walking, etc., so long as social separation is maintained. Last week, one of my pickleball buds, Jane Garrison, brought a plastic tub with a weak bleach solution to the courts to wash pickleballs after games. We also make use of hand sanitizers between games. Another bud, Puwanai “Ping” Peksrichai has been helpful coordinating players on and off the courts as we have many tennis fans in town substituting pickleball play for time normally spent in the bleachers at Indian Wells at the BNP Paribas Open Tennis Tournament that was canceled. My hope is that the city of Palm Springs won’t padlock the gates to the courts and allow us to continue playing, but then, it may be best to just stay home.

I also went to three different stores to find a simple set of dumbbells to do some of my gym routine at home. Apparently many others had the same idea as shelves and display racks were almost empty.

And no coronavirus story would be complete without mention of toilet paper. My elderly next-door neighbor asked me to help her find a supply. I drove to eight stores Tuesday morning, and at Walmart I stood in a line 30 deep in hopes of receiving one pack of toilet paper and one pack of paper towels. At the head of the line were two Walmart associates directing each person to the distribution portal. I asked one if she ever thought her job would include this and she said “never in my wildest dreams, but everyone has been very calm and respectful.” The woman before me got the last pack of TP, but I did snag a pack of paper towels, which were doled out by two uniformed security guards.

Finally, I saw a recent Facebook posting: “Our grandparents were asked to serve in a war, we are being asked so sit on our couches. I think we can do that!”

Remembering Lloyd



Construction workers look at the rubble from a building after an earthquake Wednesday, March 18, 2020, in Salt Lake City. A 5.7-magnitude earthquake has shaken the city and many of its suburbs. The quake sent panicked residents running to the streets, knocked out power to tens of thousands of homes and closed the city's airport and its light rail system. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

Gregory Nokes ([Email](#)) - The [earthquake that shook Salt Lake City](#)

Wednesday reminded me of the first significant story I worked on after joining The AP in Salt Lake City in 1962. It also was an earthquake, not a big one, but a good local story.

The AP office was on the 10th floor of the Salt Lake Tribune Building. My first assignment was to arrive at the office by 5 a.m. to write the morning radio news report, called a "split." Most of the news was usually borrowed from *The Salt Lake Tribune*, with some overnight police news sprinkled in. I'd write the report, hand it to a rather gruff Teletype operator named Lloyd Bost, who would type it up and transmit the report over AP's then-regional Teletype network to radio stations throughout Utah and Idaho.

I'd been on the job only a few days when, on the early morning of August 30, 1962, the building shook, windows rattled, books fell off the shelves, coffee spilled. As we were on the 10th floor, there was a whole lot of shaking going on. It didn't last long. What just happened? I sat transfixed. Lloyd gave me a quizzical look, and, seeing I wasn't moving, finally said, "That's an earthquake." They may have been the first words Lloyd ever said to me.

"Yes. Earthquake." I still didn't move. Lloyd then instructed, "Call the police to confirm." Of course. I called. The police dispatcher confirmed; it definitely was an earthquake. No reports of injuries, at least not yet. Lloyd typed out a bulletin, something like: "An earthquake of unknown magnitude shook Salt Lake City at 6 a.m. today, Salt Lake City police confirmed. They had no immediate reports of damage or injuries."

“Now,” Lloyd next instructed, “grab the phone book and start calling people.” Yes, good idea. First call was to a nearly hysterical woman taking a bath when the water suddenly erupted around her and objects fell from the medicine cabinet. I typed this up, handed it to Lloyd. Another woman said a wall cracked. An elderly woman fell down, not hurt. A mother ran into the street with her children. Bricks fell from a wall, damaging a parked car.

Within a half-hour, more experienced reporters, shaken from their beds, descended on the office and took over the story. But by this time, Lloyd had underway a detailed running account of the earthquake for newscasters to read to listeners throughout the region. There was damage, but no injuries.

A few days later, I found in my office mailbox a copy of a letter to AP’s New York headquarters from Chief of Bureau Jerry O’Brien, praising me for my good work and fast-thinking, and “after only a few days on the job.” Such letters of praise for local staffers sent to AP headquarters were few and far between, so this was a good thing for me and my career. But no mention of Lloyd.

About Lloyd: Long gone now, he was 60 or so, beefy in stature, who led a solitary life, always arriving in the early morning ahead of everyone else with a thermos of black coffee in one hand. The joke was he needed the extra time to focus his eyes and loosen his fingers following a night of drinking. As he sat hunched over the keyboard, punching out the yellow Teletype tape, he rarely acknowledged the rest of us when we arrived.

“Lloyd,” I said, letter in hand, you are the one who deserves this praise, not me.

“It’s OK, kid.” Yes, Lloyd’s exact words.

Connecting mailbox

Bars closed on St. Patties Day? Blimey!



Shared by Vickie Hoskey.

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The way we were: A 1997 gathering of AP chiefs of communications



Ken Fields ([Email](#)) - This photo was taken at a 1997 meeting of COCs in New Orleans. The meeting coincided with the trade show NEXPO and included workshops along with Human Resources training.

Sports you can watch live in lieu of LeBron, Tiger and Company

Bruce Lowitt ([Email](#)) - I write a weekly sports satire column, The Lowitt Lowdown, for TBT*, the Tampa Bay Times' free weekly periodical. For this week's edition I came up with a column for fans desperate to watch live competition (as opposed to reruns of games). My editor thought it was way too obscure for the average reader, so I came up with a different one - but rather than just discard my first effort, I thought I'd send it along, just for laughs. All the sports I list are real. You could look them up.

SPORTS SATIRE

The NBA, NHL, MLB, PGA, MLS, XFL, NASCAR, March Madness and other traditional sports have postponed or canceled play for the foreseeable future and various TV stations are showing reruns of games. But that doesn't mean there aren't live sports worth watching (and you can look them up) somewhere on your cable TV. Here is the listing in your local newspaper of some of the ways to fill your hours while pining for LeBron James, Alex Ovechkin, Mookie Betts, Tiger Woods and the rest of your sidelined athletes to return to action:

SPORTS ON TV

TODAY

Bao-taoshi

Dragons at Chickens 1 a.m. Fuji
Blossoms at Warlords 3 a.m. Asahi
Pythons at Akitas 5 a.m. ESPNY

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Buzkashi

Quarajai Cup semifinals
Kyrgyzstan vs. Kazakhstan noon Pashto TV
USA vs. China (tape delay) 11 p.m. FS6

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Ferret Legging

(Preseason exhibition)
Reg Mellor, Yorkshire 7 p.m. BBCSPT

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Fierljeppen

Seniors : Jaco de Groot, Utrecht 4:40 p.m. NPO
Juniors: Joris de Jong, Friesland 5:20 p.m. NPO

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Kaninhop

Norway at Finland

Free jumping 8 a.m. Sjuan

Straight line 9 a.m. Sjuan

Germany at Italy

Hasenpfeffer vs. Cacciatore 6 a.m. Cielo

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Kaiju Big Battel

Kung-Fu Chicken vs. Dust Bunny 8 p.m. ESPNZZ

Chlamydia vs. Trachomatis 10 p.m. ESPNQZ

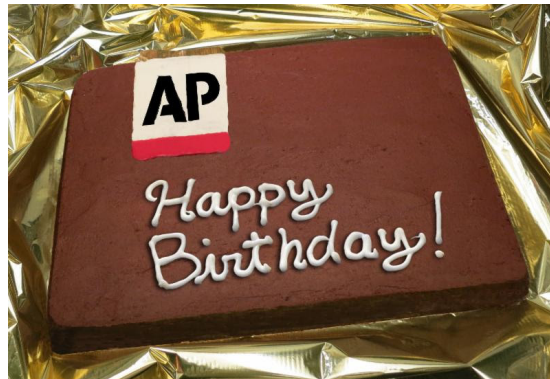
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PRIME NETWORK'S WIDE WORLD OF SPORTS 11:59 p.m. PSNT

Death Diving, Hobbyhorsing, Chessboxing, Shinkicking,

Cheeserolling, Toewrestling, Pillowfighting, Extreme Ironing and Rock, Paper, Scissors.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Rick Rogers – rrogers@townnews.com

Stories of interest

White House, media team up for virus public service campaign

LOS ANGELES (AP) — First lady Melania Trump and Dr. Anthony Fauci will take part in public service messages aimed at informing Americans about how to protect themselves and others from the coronavirus.

The White House said Wednesday it's joining with major media companies, digital platforms and the Ad Council to share "accurate and timely information directly to the American people" about social distancing, hygiene and mental health.

The announcements, known as PSAs, will direct people to [coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov), which a centralized source of updated information on the crisis, according to a White House statement.

Media outlets are donating air time, with all content coordinated through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Read more [here](#).

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Carlson says he felt obligation to meet with Trump on virus

By **DAVID BAUDER**

NEW YORK (AP) — Fox News Channel's Tucker Carlson says he felt a "moral obligation" to meet with President Donald Trump and warn him personally about the seriousness of the coronavirus pandemic.

Carlson told Vanity Fair that "I didn't feel it was my role" but was convinced by his wife to meet with Trump at Mar-a-Lago on March 7. Two nights later on his Fox show, he issued a pointed warning to viewers to prepare for the coming storm.

It speaks to both Fox News' influence with the president and his supporters that a cable news host was able to contact the White House and successfully request the two-hour meeting. Carlson drove to the president's resort from his Florida home, ironically on the day some guests at Mar-a-Lago were exposed to the virus.

He declined a request to speak to The Associated Press about it on Wednesday, and the White House had no comment on a private meeting.

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

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Under lockdown, Italy debates if physical newspapers are essential (Quartz)

By Luiz Romero

As it became increasingly clear earlier this week that the Italian government would announce even more stringent measures to combat coronavirus, in a country that already faces extraordinary restrictions, a debate began to brew over what should be left open and what should be forced to closed. Places that sell food and medicine would have to keep functioning, but what about the edicole—the small shops that sell newspapers and magazines, and that still exist in the thousands in Italy?

On Wednesday (March 11), Carlo Verdelli, the director of Repubblica, one of the two largest newspapers in the country, alongside Corriere, published a note arguing that newsstands should be added to the list of essential services that was being prepared by the government. Verdelli argued that they should remain open because access to information is more fundamental now than ever. The trade association of newspapers and the national union of newsagents made similar points.

The conversation spread to social media, where some users argued that newsstands should be closed, because information could be easily found online, and the tiny shops could become vectors for contagion.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Lou Boccardi.

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Stanley: We're here to serve public health, thanks to our subscribers

By George Stanley, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

When times get tough, our reporters head toward the trouble.

This was true when cryptosporidium entered our water supply and sickened thousands; when we had journalists in New York and D.C. on 9/11; when a Falk Industries gas line exploded in the Menomonee Valley; when a racist gunman attacked the Sikh Temple in Oak Creek; when an electrician shot five co-workers at the Miller Brewery just three weeks ago.

Our job is to report what we find, so you have accurate, trustworthy information to make smart decisions, help your neighbors, keep your family safe. This often includes stories we wish we didn't have to write.

As we cover the coronavirus pandemic, we're taking every step to ensure we're being safe while helping serve public health interests. Our staff is working remotely, covering events but filing stories from home and the road. We're applying the suggested practices we're describing — keeping six feet or

more from others, not shaking hands, conducting interviews by phone, shooting photos from a distance, staying out of quarantine zones.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Jim Carlson.

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Art Saltsberg, the last of the “WOWO legends”, retires after 50 years (WPTA21)

By Daniel Beals

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (WPTA21) - Art Saltsberg is one-of-a-kind.

At least that's how many of his colleagues at WOWO and Federated Media describe working with him through the decades.

"He's probably the last of our 'legends'", WOWO radio host Pat Miller told us.

In his 20's, Federated Media general sales manager Ben Saurer recalls walking its his first meeting with Art, "What am I going to coach or tell this guy!?"

Kayla Blakeslee, another radio host at WOWO, says her message to Art is. "You're one of the last and final rockstars that we had around here."

His career spanned 50 years, some of it behind a microphone, the rest in sales.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History – March 19, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, March 19, the 79th day of 2020. There are 287 days left in the year. Spring arrives at 11:50 p.m. EDT, the earliest the vernal equinox has occurred in 124 years.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 19, 1966, the Texas Western Miners defeated the heavily favored Kentucky Wildcats, 72-65, to win the NCAA Championship played in College Park, Maryland; making the contest especially noteworthy was that Texas Western became the first basketball team to start five black players in a national title game as it faced an all-white Kentucky squad.

On this date:

In 1687, French explorer Rene-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, the first European to navigate the length of the Mississippi River, was murdered by mutineers in present-day Texas.

In 1917, a divided U.S. Supreme Court, in *Wilson v. New*, upheld, 5-4, the eight-hour work day for interstate railroad workers.

In 1931, Nevada Gov. Fred B. Balzar signed a measure legalizing casino gambling.

In 1945, during World War II, 724 people were killed when a Japanese dive bomber attacked the carrier USS Franklin off Japan (the ship was saved). Adolf Hitler ordered the destruction of German facilities that could fall into Allied hands in his so-called "Nero Decree," which was largely disregarded.

In 1953, the Academy Awards ceremony was televised for the first time; "The Greatest Show on Earth" was named best picture of 1952.

In 1977, the series finale of "Mary Tyler Moore" aired on CBS-TV, ending the situation comedy's seven-season run.

In 1979, the U.S. House of Representatives began televising its floor proceedings; the live feed was carried by C-SPAN (Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network), which was making its debut.

In 1987, televangelist Jim Bakker resigned as chairman of his PTL ministry organization amid a sex and money scandal involving Jessica Hahn, a former church secretary.

In 1993, Supreme Court Justice Byron R. White announced plans to retire. (White's departure paved the way for Ruth Bader Ginsburg to become the court's second female justice.)

In 2003, President George W. Bush ordered the start of war against Iraq. (Because of the time difference, it was early March 20 in Iraq.)

In 2013, Pope Francis officially began his ministry as the 266th pope, receiving the ring symbolizing the papacy and a wool stole exemplifying his role as shepherd of his 1.2-billion strong flock during a Mass at the Vatican.

In 2014, Toyota agreed to pay \$1.2 billion to settle an investigation by the U.S. government, admitting that it had hidden information about defects that caused Toyota and Lexus vehicles to accelerate unexpectedly, resulting in injuries and deaths.

Ten years ago: The White House released an online video of President Barack Obama making a fresh appeal directly to the people of Iran, saying a U.S. offer of diplomatic dialogue still stood, but that the Tehran government had chosen isolation.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama ordered the federal government to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by nearly half over the next decade, driving his climate change agenda forward despite percolating challenges from Republican-led states. Days after winning reelection, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu backtracked from hardline campaign statements against the establishment of a Palestinian state in the face of a diplomatic backlash. Lindsey Vonn won the final super-G of the season and with it her 19th crystal globe trophy at the World Cup finals in Meribel, France. Songwriter Michael Brown, 65, who co-wrote the 1966 hit "Walk Away Renee," died in Englewood, New Jersey.

One year ago: President Donald Trump escalated his attacks on the late Sen. John McCain, who had died in 2018 of brain cancer; Trump told reporters, "I was never a fan of John McCain and I never will be." Aid workers rushed to rescue victims clinging to trees and crammed on rooftops after a cyclone unleashed devastating floods in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi; more than 350 people were confirmed dead with hundreds missing. In a major advance against the Islamic State group, U.S.-backed Syrian forces seized control of an encampment held by the group in eastern Syria after hundreds of militants surrendered overnight.

Today's Birthdays: Former White House national security adviser Brent Scowcroft is 95. Actress Renee Taylor is 87. Actress Ursula Andress is 84. Singer Clarence "Frogman" Henry is 83. Singer Ruth Pointer (The Pointer Sisters) is 74. Actress Glenn Close is 73. Disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein is 68. Actor Bruce Willis is 65. Actress-comedian Mary Scheer is 57. Playwright Neil LaBute is 57. Actor Connor Trinneer is 51. Rock musician Gert Bettens (K's Choice) is 50. Rapper Bun B is 47. Rock musician Zach Lind (Jimmy Eat World) is 44. Actress Virginia Williams is 42. Actress Abby Brammell is 41. MLB pitcher Clayton Kershaw is 32. Actor Craig Lamar Traylor is 31. Actor Philip Bolden is 25.

Thought for Today: "The heaviest baggage for a traveler is an empty purse." [-] German proverb.

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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