

SHARE:

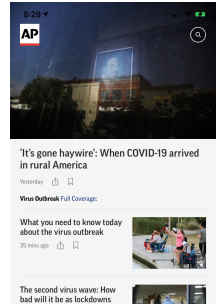
[Join Our Email List](#)

[View as Webpage](#)



## Connecting May 21, 2020

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 21<sup>st</sup> day of May 2020,

All of our lives have been changed dramatically by the Covid-19 pandemic, but perhaps none as dramatically or uniquely as the very young.

So your Connecting editor decided to interview four people in that demographic – his grandchildren: **Sophie**, 11, and **Brennan**, 9, who live in the Kansas City suburb of Olathe, Kansas, and **Max**, 11, and **Teddy**, 8, who live in New Canaan, Connecticut.

“I’m all over that!”, said Sophie, the eldest, when I asked her to answer questions that I posed to each of the four. All of them delivered, and we lead today’s issue with their thoughts. Above all, Linda and I are grateful that we and our kids in Connecticut, Kansas and California, and our four grandkids, are safe and healthy. Nothing is more important.

If you'd like to do something similar to this with your kids or grandkids, it would be much appreciated.

**GRADUATION:** Speaking of kids and grandkids, Connecting received its first responses to our call to the parents and grandparents among you to share a photo of your new graduate, high school or college. With social distancing from COVID-19 disrupting most all graduation ceremonies, I thought it would be one more way to celebrate their achievement in a different way. Send along a photo with a brief description of anything done unusually to celebrate their graduation.



**AP GROUND GAME :** AP News Director for Europe and Africa Anna Johnson steps back and talks about how the world is experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic at the same time but in very different ways.

Listen [here](#) .

Here's to a great day ahead – be safe, stay healthy, look for silver linings!

Paul

## Our 'new normal' seen through the eyes of the young



**Sophie and Brennan with parents saluting health care workers, parked outside a Kansas City-area hospital.**



**Max (right) and Teddy practicing their basketball shots in the driveway of their home in Connecticut.**

## **What is your opinion of Covid-19?**

**Sophie** : I think it is a big waste of a person's time and is making innocent people sick. It is very rude.

**Max**: That it's totally changed the way we live and human beings are not supposed to live this way.

**Brennan** : Boring.

**Teddy**: That COVID-19 will eventually go away.

-0-

## **What do you miss the most about your life before Covid-19?**

**Sophie**: Hanging out with my friends and seeing family - also HUGS!

**Max:** Getting to see other human beings, watching and playing sports.

**Brennan :** School.

**Teddy :** Going places and seeing other people.

-0-

**What new things have you been doing - favorite activities- since Covid-19?**

**Sophie:** I have been learning how to skateboard and I think I am getting the hang of it.

**Max:** I've had a lot of time to improve my shot on the basketball hoop and practice pitching and batting with my dad.

**Brennan :** Going to the bike park and going on lots of walks.

**Teddy :** I still get to do my weekly rock guitar lesson with my teacher over Zoom. Plus we both get more Xbox time than we usually would.

-0-

**Do you like school being at your home - and why or why not?**

**Sophie:** NO I do not. I miss my teachers so much and my friends and there they make lunch for me.

**Max :** Who does? No I do not like e-learning because you don't get to see your friends.

**Brennan :** No because you're on this boring computer all the time!

**Teddy :** There are some good parts and bad parts. The good part is that I have the opportunity to finish earlier in the day than I usually would and we get half days every Wednesday. The bad part is that I miss my teacher and my friends.

-0-

**Do you see a way you can help others during Covid-19?**

**Sophie :** You can stay home and pray that everyone is staying safe.

**Max:** Yes, by helping people who shouldn't go out get groceries and things they need.

**Brennan :** Yes, you could help encourage doctors and nurses to help patients who have the coronavirus.

**Teddy:** I drew a rainbow and a message of hope at the edge of our street to support people.

-0-

## **What is one new thing you are enjoying that you had never done before Covid-19?**

**Sophie :** I have been playing outside even more than I used too. And we are helping foster a puppy from the shelter.

**Max and Teddy :** Playing family basketball in our driveway with our mom and dad.

**Brennan :** Building the Lego Millennium Falcon that I'm done with, and going to the bike park and doing bike jumps.

-0-

## **And one final word:**

**Brennan :** Here is a joke: What's black and white and read all over? A newspaper!!!!

# **Recognizing our new graduates**



**Paul Albright** ([Email](#)) - Complete with face mask, gap and gown, our only grandson, Otto van Maarth, (who turns 18 next month) participated in a musical, balloon-filled drive-by graduation parade around Boulder (CO) High School on the edge of the University of Colorado campus on May 16. Go Panthers!



**Brent Kallestad** ([Email](#)) - Oldest grandchild Dylan Burch graduates Tuesday, May 26, in a virtual ceremony from Lincoln HS in Tallahassee. My oldest, Adam, graduated from there in 1991. Large public school of roughly 2,200 students. We are very proud of Dylan. He had to work hard to finish on time and he made it. Probably will attend the local community college or a trade school. That decision awaits.

## Mount St. Helens: Marking an anniversary like none other





**Ted S. Warren ( [Email](#) )** - I returned to Mount St. Helens for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this week, but this anniversary of the mountain's eruption, things were different. Due to the outbreak of the coronavirus, there were no public ceremonies or crowds of people, and the last section of road up to the Johnston Ridge Observatory was closed by the state due to stay-at-home restrictions in Washington.

Still, I wanted to be on the mountain at 8:32am to take photos for the wire, as I had been for the 25<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> anniversaries, so I headed up there early in the morning and other than passing cars, I didn't see any signs of fellow visitors until I pulled into a trailhead parking lot and saw three other vehicles parked.

I hiked in on a trail for about a half mile, marked the 8:32am eruption time by myself, and then sat down on a hummock – a mound of debris from the eruption 40 years ago – that now was covered in delicate moss, grass, and other small plants.

I soon met a hiker who had come in behind me, and with that AP luck, who happened to live along one of the forks of the Toutle River when the mountain blew 40 years ago, and I photographed him and then did a video interview, using a rock as my tripod.

I hiked another  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile further, noting that there was a lot more new growth along the trail than when I had done an AP video essay 10 years ago on the same trail with one of the volcano scientists.

As I walked, the cloud cover started moving lower, and I was glad I had come up early to get more of the mountain in my photos.

Every time I'm at Mount St. Helens, I think back to 40 years ago in northern Idaho when I was in fifth grade and the ash from the eruption darkened the sky and rained down on us like snow, causing us to wear face masks everywhere, stay home because of the dust hazards to cars and lungs, and cancelling school nearly a month early, events similar to how we live now.

The first sign that something was vastly different on May 18, 1980, was the darkness that began to close in from the sky in the middle of the afternoon.

I was at a 4-H picnic in Moscow, Idaho, where I grew up, when Mount St. Helens exploded about 350 miles away, spreading a shower of ash over my town and many others. We left the picnic early and listened to KRPL on an AM radio for news about the volcano. As my mom parked the car, the headlights illuminated the first bits of ash as they began to fall from the sky.

Roosters at our neighbor's house crowed as they normally did around 7 p.m. this time of year — only it was not yet 4 o'clock.

I was a fifth-grade newshound, and as I sat glued to the CBS News broadcasts, I called my friends in town for updates — until my dad told me to leave our shared party line free for the neighbors. By bedtime, there was a thick coating of ash on everything in sight.



**A 1980 photo with my brother Sam, looking out the door of our deck to footprints on the ash at our home in Moscow, Idaho.**

The next day, I woke up early and marveled as a car driving past our house kicked up a billowing cloud of ash. My brother and I had fun filling mason jars with the stuff out in our yard — as if it would soon melt away like snow. We had to wear the surgical masks Mom gave us when we went outside.

I took photographs with my Kodak Instamatic camera. Looking back, I wonder if those images of spooky afternoon darkness and my gray-washed front yard planted the seeds that today send me happily scurrying off to St. Helens with my cameras every chance my editors give me.

As an AP photographer, I live to cover what I call big nature stories: fires, floods and forests — storms, streams and sunshine. And there's no nature bigger than St. Helens.

After the eruption, school was canceled for more than a week, and photographs in the Daily Idahonian showed all of Moscow covered in several inches of ash. There were stories about how you couldn't buy women's nylons or coffee filters anywhere in town, because only those products stood a chance of stopping the ash from ruining a car engine.

On the campus of the University of Idaho, where my father worked, they closed the streets to cars to keep the dust down. Administrators liked the calm that it

brought to campus so much, the bulk of those streets are still pedestrian-only to this day.

It would be months before my hometown would clean up and recover from the ashfall that Mount St. Helens brought. But the memories of that first day, when darkness fell along with flakes of gray ash — when the roosters crowed in the middle of the afternoon — are still fresh in my mind today.

*AP Photographer **Ted S. Warren** was a fifth-grader at McDonald Elementary in Moscow, Idaho, when Mount St. Helens erupted in nearby Washington state.*

## Connecting mailbox

### ***It was a privilege to work with Joe Kay***

**Dale Leach** ([Email](#)) - Wanted to chime in on Joe Kay's 40th anniversary.

As an Ohio staffer and later Ohio news editor and assistant chief of bureau, I have many fond memories of Joe's good humor and remarkable journalistic talent. Although an outstanding sports writer, you could also count on Joe to lend a more than competent hand to any story that developed on his watch. I still recall the ongoing story of a Cincinnati woman who had killed her husband and buried his body in the backyard — unfortunately, a rather pedestrian story except for the delicious detail that the couple were watching “The Love Boat” at the time of the slaying. I believe it was Joe who included that morsel each time a new development kept the story alive.

Joe's game-ending leads were a thing of precision, but his optionals were generally a thing of beauty. And he executed all of it under deadline pressures that few could master.

It was a privilege to work with him.

-0-

### ***A salute to John Brewer's account of Karr family tragedy***

**Chuck Lewis** ([Email](#)) – John Brewer really kicked the slats out in his folo story in Wednesday’s Connecting on the Karr family tragedy at Mt. St. Helen’s. The combo pathos, journalism ethics, and the reporting that wrapped it together made a powerful impact 40 years later – and yesterday. Salutes to John and his editor.

-0-

## ***About home confinement***

**Bruce Lowitt** ([Email](#)) - “In 2009, suspended NFL star Michael Vick was released after 19 months in prison for running a dogfighting ring to begin two months’ home confinement.” (From Wednesday’s CONNECTING)

It occurs to me that much of the nation has undergone two months’ home confinement and that very few of us has run a dogfighting ring.

-0-

## ***No fans? When it’s just you and the driver...***

**Hal Bock** ([Email](#)) - The resumption of auto racing with no fans reminded me of what an eerie place a speedway can be when it’s just you and the driver, in this case the great Mario Andretti.

At Indianapolis one year, Mike Harris arranged for me to take a ride around the track with Andretti driving on the day before the Indy 500. No fans, just me and Mario and the old brickyard. I climbed in the passenger side with recorder ready. This was in the days before seatbelts were mandatory in New York and I never thought about attaching.

So off we went, cruising along, Mario talking about strategy and memories of sections of the track. Then he decided to have some fun and stepped on the gas. I was thrust against the door of the car, thinking “well, if I get killed, at least I was doing my job.”

On the tape you hear the roar of the engine and then Andretti’s voice saying “That was 100 miles an hour. On Sunday, we’ll be doing twice as fast.”

I said nothing. If I had, my baritone would have squeaked soprano, Later I thanked him for the ride, wrote a first-person account and saved the tape.

The things we did for The AP.

-0-

## ***Yoga classes for AP staffers, families***



Christina Paciolla, news editor for Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Ohio, gets ready to conduct her daily gentle yoga and meditation class in the shirt AP regulars bought for her, May 15, 2020. Paciolla has led 15-minute sessions for

AP staffers and their families via Zoom since most began working from home.  
(Photo by David Stahl)

# AP wins Webby Award for ‘What Can Be Saved?’



**Diver Everton Simpson carries pieces of staghorn coral from a nursery to be planted inside the White River Fish Sanctuary, Feb. 11, 2019, in Ocho Rios, Jamaica.(AP Photo/David J. Phillip)**

**By Lauren Easton**

The Associated Press earned a People’s Voice Webby Award on Tuesday for its minidocumentaries focused on the environment and conservation efforts, titled “What Can Be Saved?”

The series took a deep look at heroic efforts to save or revive ecosystems around the world, preserving vital natural habitats in the face of climate change.

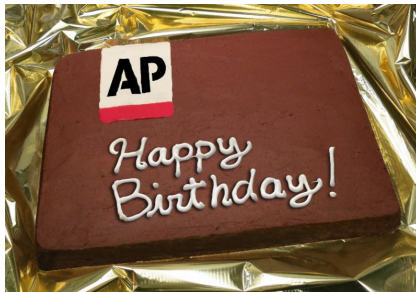


The minidocumentaries explore efforts to bring back coral reefs from the brink in Jamaica, restoration underway in the Florida Everglades, the fight to save an endangered butterfly that can be found only one place on Earth, the rebounding of the mountain gorilla in Rwanda and more.

“What Can Be Saved?” was supported by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s Department of Science Education.

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

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Fred Frommer - [fjf67@yahoo.com](mailto:fjf67@yahoo.com)

Deb Riechmann – [driechmann@ap.org](mailto:driechmann@ap.org)

Robert Weller – [robertweller@gmail.com](mailto:robertweller@gmail.com)

## Welcome to Connecting



Cliff Decatrel - [cdecatrel@ap.org](mailto:cdecatrel@ap.org)

Joe Kay - [jkay@ap.org](mailto:jkay@ap.org)

## Stories of interest

***The coronavirus has closed more than 25 local newsrooms across America. And counting.*** (Poynter)

By Kristen Hare

In many places, it started with a cut in print days. Furloughs. Layoffs. Just to get through the crisis, newsroom leaders told readers.

In some places, none of it was enough.

Now, small newsrooms around the country, often more than 100 years old, often the only news source in those places, are closing under the weight of the coronavirus. Some report they're merging with nearby publications. But that "merger" means the end of news dedicated to those communities, the evaporation of institutional knowledge and the loss of local jobs.

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Paul Albright, Richard Chady.

# ***Media cuts weigh on industry morale*** (Axios)

**By Sara Fischer, Scott Rosenberg**

Over 500 people in the U.S. news media were laid off last week, indicating that many companies' initial efforts at the start of the pandemic to avoid job cuts, like reducing executive pay, weren't sufficient to protect their work forces.

Why it matters: Layoffs in bulk can deeply injure any organization's psyche — particularly in the situation where companies end up doing it more than once, which is why often execs are advised to cut deeply once rather than minimize a first round.

By the numbers: Layoffs at Vice (155 people), Quartz (80 people), The Economist (90 people), Condé Nast (100 people) and furloughs at BuzzFeed (68) and Condé Nast (another 100) were posted last week. Hundreds more are expected in coming months.

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

## **Today in History - May 21, 2020**



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Thursday, May 21, the 142nd day of 2020. There are 224 days left in the year.

## **Today's Highlight in History:**

On May 21, 1927, Charles A. Lindbergh landed his Spirit of St. Louis monoplane near Paris, completing the first solo airplane flight across the Atlantic Ocean in 33 1/2 hours.

### **On this date:**

In 1471, King Henry VI of England died in the Tower of London at age 49.

In 1542, Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto died while searching for gold along the Mississippi River.

In 1868, Ulysses S. Grant was nominated for president by the Republican national convention in Chicago.

In 1881, Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross.

In 1892, the opera "Pagliacci," by Ruggero Leoncavallo, premiered in Milan, Italy.

In 1910, a year-old Jewish settlement near the port city of Jaffa adopted the name Tel Aviv (Hebrew for "Hill of Spring").

In 1932, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean as she landed in Northern Ireland, about 15 hours after leaving Newfoundland.

In 1941, a German U-boat sank the American merchant steamship SS Robin Moor in the South Atlantic after the ship's passengers and crew were allowed to board lifeboats.

In 1972, Michelangelo's Pieta, on display at the Vatican, was damaged by a hammer-wielding man who shouted he was Jesus Christ.

In 1979, former San Francisco City Supervisor Dan White was convicted of voluntary manslaughter in the slayings of Mayor George Moscone (mah-KOH'-nee) and openly gay Supervisor Harvey Milk; outrage over the verdict

sparked rioting. (White was sentenced to seven years and eight months in prison; he ended up serving five years and took his own life in 1985.)

In 1991, former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated during national elections by a suicide bomber.

In 2018, Syria's military captured an enclave in southern Damascus from Islamic State militants after a monthlong battle, bringing the entire capital and its suburbs under full government control for the first time since the civil war began in 2011.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama directed the government to set the first-ever mileage and pollution limits for big trucks and to tighten rules for future cars and SUVs. Citing overwhelming evidence that North Korea had sunk a South Korean warship, the Cheonan, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton warned the reclusive communist state of consequences.

Five years ago: Four Malaysian navy ships began searching for stranded boat people in the first official rescue operation since desperate migrants started washing up on Southeast Asia's shores. The Family Research Council said it had accepted the resignation of Josh Duggar in the wake of the reality TV star's apology for unspecified bad behavior as a young teen. (Duggar later admitted molesting five underage girls as a teenager, including two of his sisters, cheating on his wife and being addicted to pornography; those revelations led to the cancellation of the TLC show "19 Kids and Counting.")

One year ago: As directed by President Donald Trump, former White House Counsel Donald McGahn defied a subpoena from the House Judiciary Committee to testify; McGahn had been a key figure in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, describing ways in which the president sought to curtail the probe. Angered by the empty chair in the hearing room, a growing number of House Democrats pushed for impeachment proceedings against Trump. Sherpa mountaineer Kami Rita extended his record for successful climbs of Mount Everest, ascending the world's highest peak for a 24th time.

Today's Birthdays: Rhythm-and-blues singer Ron Isley (The Isley Brothers) is 79. Rock musician Hilton Valentine (The Animals) is 77. Musician Bill Champlin is 73. Singer Leo Sayer is 72. Actress Carol Potter is 72. Former Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., is 69. Actor Mr. T is 68. Music producer Stan Lynch is 65. Actor Judge Reinhold is 63. Actor-director Nick Cassavetes is 61. Actress Lisa Edelstein is 54. Actress Fairuza Balk is 46. Rock singer-musician Mikel Jollett (Airborne Toxic Event) is 46. Rapper Havoc (Mobb Deep) is 46. Rock musician

Tony LoGerfo (Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real) is 37. Actor Sunkrish Bala is 36. Actor David Ajala is 34. Actress Ashlie Brillault is 33. Country singer Cody Johnson is 33. Actor Scott Leavenworth is 30. Actress Sarah Ramos is 29.

**Thought for Today: “Being frustrated is disagreeable, but the real disasters of life begin when you get what you want.” [-] Irving Kristol, American writer (1920-2009).**

## 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**

**Editor, Connecting newsletter**

**paulstevens46@gmail.com**