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Connecting August 26, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 26th day of August 2020,
Do you have a pet that's helping get you through the pandemic?

Diana Heidgerd does – Vinny is the name of her cat – and she invites her Connecting colleagues to share a story and photo about theirs.

Got an unusual backdrop for your Zoom calls?

Dan Day does – and it includes some of his very favorite baseball memorabilia. He invites you to share a story and photo about yours.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

Pandemic & Precious Pets



Diana Heidgerd with her shelter-rescued 9-year-old gray tabby named Vinny, who chews up rubber shoes better than any dog and loves to chase little lizard guys -- better known as geckos.

Diana Heidgerd ([Email](#)) - Maybe it's time to salute all those loving pets that have helped us get through the forced isolation, uncertainty, anxiety and even boredom during the past five months of this awful pandemic.

I think we all have great stories about how our pets have put their best paws (or fins, webbed feet, wings, scales) forward to encourage us to walk more, show silly affection and be wonderful pals in times of virus stress.

I'd love to see fun photos of critters helping us humans survive the pandemic.

So how about it – I'm challenging you to share a current photo of you and your favorite pet (or pets) and how they are helping you get through the days of COVID-19. Please add a line or two about how your pet got his/her name and any quirky critter habits. And please be in the photo!

For example, let me tell you about my Vinny, my 9-year-old shelter-rescued tabby whose claim to veterinary fame is that he literally chewed up one of my rubber flip-flops, got sick and the vet discovered a hunk of torn-up gray rubber embedded around one of his teeth. Vinny also deftly catches itty bitty geckos that unexplainably slip into our house during the hot Texas summer.

Now it's your turn.

‘Baseball wall’ is his new Zoom backdrop – what’s yours?



Rickey Henderson and Robin Yount (framed at top, center) are major features of the "baseball wall" in Dan Day's home office. Other highlights include a photo he took at a Yale-Princeton baseball game and his first leather mitt, circa 1961.

Dan Day ([Email](#)) - Since I'm parked for some time to come in my new home office, I've spruced up my Zoom background by building "the baseball wall." With permission from my wife, I've hung up several items with a baseball theme.

One of the showcase pieces is a treasured photo from early in my career. It's the black and white image in a black frame showing future Hall of Famers Rickey Henderson of the Oakland Athletics and Robin Yount of the Milwaukee Brewers.

The photo is unique among my personal memorabilia in that it has not one but two special stories behind it. Rickey Henderson and Robin Yount (at top, center) are major features of the "baseball wall" in my home office. Other

highlights include a photo I took of a Yale-Princeton baseball game and my first leather mitt, circa 1961.

The first dates to 1982, the year the Brewers would win the American League pennant only to fall to the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series.

On Aug. 26 that year, the A's were in town and Henderson was one bag shy of tying and two shy of breaking Lou Brock's single-season stolen base record of 118.

I was in my second year with AP, and it was also my 26th birthday. Having worked a day shift, I headed to County Stadium for the game to run film for our crew of photographers.

Rickey tied the record that night, and I don't recall seeing him do it. I believe I was somewhere between the darkroom and the third base line when it happened.

But Rickey didn't break the record. It presumably would come the next night, and the next day I told Bureau Chief Dion Henderson that I'd be delighted to go back.

"No," he told me.

But you don't have to pay me overtime. I'll just do it on my own time.

"No. We don't need you."

I spent much of the day grousing about that and skulked home, trudging up the stairs to our upper flat. When I opened the door, there stood Dion, drink in hand, grinning from ear to ear.

My wife, Becky, assisted by our 1-year-old daughter, had planned a surprise birthday party for me. Dion was in on it. Several members of the bureau were also on hand, although photographer Steve Pyle couldn't come. He was back at the ballpark, there to record Rickey swiping No. 119.

Steve rang the house from the park and without even identifying himself said simply, "He did it."

Some days later, Steve made me the 16"x20" print that hangs on my wall. Here's where the second story comes in.

I didn't frame the photo right away. A year later, I was transferred to Omaha. The movers swooped in to pack. When we finally unpacked, I discovered that the crew had folded the photo in thirds.

I was distraught. Fortunately, the print had not cracked. I was able to flatten it and put it in a plastic frame. It stayed there for nearly four decades until this month, when it went into its new frame, a reminder of some great times with the AP.

An Oxford comma walks into a bar...

Cliff Schiappa ([Email](#)) - Thanks to Jim Cook, Connecting colleague and former editor of The Parsons (Kansas) Sun, for posting this on Facebook. I have no idea if he created it, or just forwarded it, but it sure is fun!

An Oxford comma walks into a bar where it spends the evening watching the television getting drunk and smoking cigars.

- A dangling participle walks into a bar. Enjoying a cocktail and chatting with the bartender, the evening passes pleasantly.
- A bar was walked into by the passive voice.
- An oxymoron walked into a bar, and the silence was deafening.
- Two quotation marks walk into a "bar."
- A malapropism walks into a bar, looking for all intensive purposes like a wolf in cheap clothing, muttering epitaphs and casting dispersions on his magnificent other, who takes him for granite.
- Hyperbole totally rips into this insane bar and absolutely destroys everything.
- A question mark walks into a bar?
- A non sequitur walks into a bar. In a strong wind, even turkeys can fly.
- Papyrus and Comic Sans walk into a bar. The bartender says, "Get out -- we don't serve your type."

• A mixed metaphor walks into a bar, seeing the handwriting on the wall but hoping to nip it in the bud.

• A comma splice walks into a bar, it has a drink and then leaves.

• Three intransitive verbs walk into a bar. They sit. They converse. They depart.

• A synonym strolls into a tavern.

• At the end of the day, a cliché walks into a bar -- fresh as a daisy, cute as a button, and sharp as a tack.

• A run-on sentence walks into a bar it starts flirting. With a cute little sentence fragment.

• Falling slowly, softly falling, the chiasmus collapses to the bar floor.

• A figure of speech literally walks into a bar and ends up getting figuratively hammered.

• An allusion walks into a bar, despite the fact that alcohol is its Achilles heel.

• The subjunctive would have walked into a bar, had it only known.

• A misplaced modifier walks into a bar owned a man with a glass eye named Ralph.

• The past, present, and future walked into a bar. It was tense.

• A dyslexic walks into a bra.

• A verb walks into a bar, sees a beautiful noun, and suggests they conjugate. The noun declines.

• A simile walks into a bar, as parched as a desert.

• A gerund and an infinitive walk into a bar, drinking to forget.

• A hyphenated word and a non-hyphenated word walk into a bar and the bartender nearly chokes on the irony.

Best of the States

Inside the reopening debate: Local school boards face ‘impossible’

decisions



The Rock Hill School Board takes a vote during a meeting in Rock Hill, S.C., Aug. 10, 2020. Like school boards across the nation, Rock Hill's board has had to answer the simple question when do children return to school – with no easy or guaranteed safe answer. AP PHOTO / JEFFREY COLLINS

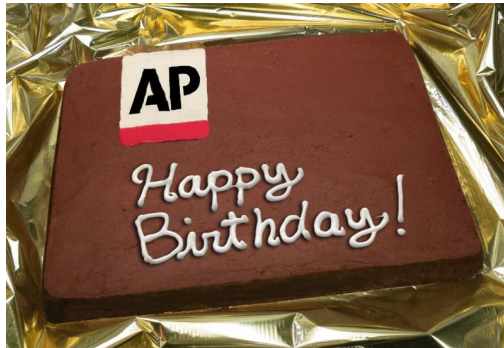
AP took an in-depth, behind-the-scenes look at one local school board dealing with a national problem – how to start the school year during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The idea: Take a deep dive into how one school district is dealing with reopening amid the pandemic. South Carolina reporter Jeffrey Collins did just that – but it wasn't easy.

Several districts rebuffed his efforts to gain behind-the-scene access. Then he came up with another approach – start from the outside and work his way inside. The Rock Hill school board had what Collins sought: meetings online, a board with differing views but civil discussions, and a district facing a variety of issues, from top-notch athletic programs to special education to plenty of students on school buses.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

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Stories of interest

In big week, ABC's David Muir emerges as star of the summer

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — In this pandemic season, ABC's David Muir has emerged as broadcast television's star of the summer.

The "World News Tonight" anchor's nightly summary averaged 8.2 million viewers last week, more than any prime-time program on television, the Nielsen company said.

ABC's prime-time interview of the Democratic ticket of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, conducted by Muir and Robin Roberts, reached 5.1 million viewers Sunday.

Otherwise, coverage of the Democratic National Convention on MSNBC and CNN dominated the ratings.

CBS' prime time average of 3 million viewers topped the broadcast networks, followed by ABC at 2.6 million, NBC at 2.4 million, Univision at 1.3 million, ION Television at 1.24 million, Fox at 1.21 million and Telemundo at 1 million.

Read more [here](#).

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Trump's audience doesn't match Biden's; president hails CNN

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Up is down, down is up. President Donald Trump thanked CNN Tuesday for its Republican convention coverage, while Fox News heard complaints from some viewers that it wasn't showing enough.

Trump's tweet that he was "very appreciative" to CNN for showing the vast majority of the Republicans' opening night program was also likely a coded message to Fox, the network of choice for many of the president's fans.

The numbers illustrate why he cares: 45% of people following coverage of the convention's last hour on the top six networks Monday were watching Fox News Channel, the Nielsen company said.

Overall, 17 million people watched the final hour of convention coverage on all networks Monday, down from 19.7 million who saw Democratic candidate Joe Biden's first night last week. Fox's audience was up 238%, but Democratic convention viewership beat Republicans on ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN and MSNBC.

Read more [here](#).

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Ammon Bundy taken into custody at Idaho Statehouse after protests (2IdahoNews)

BOISE, Idaho (CBS2) — Well known anti-government activist Ammon Bundy has been arrested after he was arrested on trespassing charges at the Idaho Statehouse.

He was spotted being removed from the Statehouse early Tuesday evening and being wheeled out on a chair into a waiting patrol vehicle.

Bundy has been charged with trespassing as well as resisting and obstructing officers for refusing to leave the Lincoln Auditorium. Two other protesters, Aaron Von Schmidt, 42, of Coeur d'Alene, and Jill Watts, 38, of Nampa, have been charged with misdemeanor trespassing.

Their arrests follow a late Tuesday afternoon protest that broke out over non-credentialed members of the press sitting in the designated press area and Bundy was widely seen sitting in one of the press-only areas.

Others were going live on Facebook and some were wearing a lanyard around their neck that says "press."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Steve Graham.

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Los Alamos newspaper to call it quits after decades in print

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. (AP) — The newspaper that has served the northern New Mexico community of Los Alamos for nearly six decades will publish its last edition on Sunday.

The Los Alamos Monitor announced on its webpage that the decision was shared with staff Friday by officials with Landmark Community Newspapers. The company has owned the paper since 1979.

Landmark President Mike Abernathy said the staff has worked hard to produce a quality newspaper but that their efforts weren't enough to overcome economic challenges that have worsened in the face of the coronavirus pandemic. Officials also pointed to diminishing community support for the newspaper, noting a decision by local government officials to send their legal advertising to a free newspaper competitor.

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

The Final Word

A truck loaded with thousands of copies of Roget's Thesaurus crashed yesterday losing its entire load. Witnesses were stunned, startled, aghast, taken aback, stupefied, confused, shocked, rattled, paralysed, dazed, bewildered, mixed up, surprised, awed, dumbfounded, nonplussed, flabbergasted, astounded, amazed, confounded, astonished, overwhelmed, horrified, numbed, speechless, and perplexed.



Shared by Marty McCarty

Today in History - August 26, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 26, the 239th day of 2020. There are 127 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 26, 1968, the Democratic National Convention opened in Chicago; the four-day event that resulted in the nomination of Hubert H. Humphrey for president was marked by a bloody police crackdown on antiwar protesters in the streets.

On this date:

In 55 B.C., Roman forces under Julius Caesar invaded Britain, with only limited success.

In 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing American women's right to vote, was certified in effect by Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby.

In 1944, French Gen. Charles de Gaulle braved the threat of German snipers as he led a victory march in Paris, which had just been liberated by the Allies from Nazi occupation.

In 1957, the Soviet Union announced it had successfully tested an intercontinental ballistic missile.

In 1958, Alaskans went to the polls to overwhelmingly vote in favor of statehood.

In 1961, the original Hockey Hall of Fame was opened in Toronto.

In 1972, the summer Olympics games opened in Munich, West Germany.

In 1974, Charles Lindbergh [–] the first man to fly solo, non-stop across the Atlantic [–] died at his home in Hawaii at age 72.

In 1985, 13-year-old AIDS patient Ryan White began “attending” classes at Western Middle School in Kokomo, Indiana, via a telephone hook-up at his home — school officials had barred Ryan from attending classes in person.

In 2004, the nation’s supply of vaccine for the impending flu season took a big hit when Chiron Corp. announced it had found tainted doses in its factory, and would hold up shipment of about 50 million shots.

In 2017, Hurricane Harvey spun into Texas, unloading extraordinary amounts of rain. (The hurricane killed nearly 70 people, damaged more than 300,000 structures and caused an estimated \$125 billion in damage.) Boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. beat UFC fighter Conor McGregor in a boxing match in Las Vegas that was stopped by the referee in the 10th round; it was the last fight of Mayweather’s career and earned him an estimated \$200 million.

In 2018, a gunman opened fire on fellow gamers at a video game tournament in Jacksonville, Fla., killing two men and wounding 10 others before taking his own life. Playwright Neil Simon, whose comedies included “The Odd Couple” and “Barefoot in the Park,” died at the age of 91.

Ten years ago: The government of Chile released a video of the 33 miners trapped deep in a copper mine; the men appeared slim but healthy as they

sang the national anthem and yelled, “Long live Chile, and long live the miners!”

Five years ago: Alison Parker, a reporter for WDBJ-TV in Roanoke, Virginia, and her cameraman, Adam Ward, were shot to death during a live broadcast by a disgruntled former station employee who fatally shot himself while being pursued by police.

One year ago: As the Group of Seven summit wrapped up in France, President Donald Trump pitched his own Doral golf resort in Florida as an ideal site for the next G-7 summit; the idea was scrapped after bipartisan concern that Trump would violate a clause in the Constitution prohibiting presidents from accepting gifts or payments from governments. Charges including aggravated manslaughter were filed against four employees of a Florida nursing home where 12 people died in sweltering heat after a hurricane cut power. An Oklahoma judge found that Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiaries had helped fuel the state’s opioid crisis; the judge ordered the consumer products giant to pay \$572 million. (The award was later reduced to \$465 million after the judge acknowledged a miscalculation; the case is on appeal.)

Today’s Birthdays: Pop singer Vic Dana is 80. Former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge is 75. Rhythm-and-blues singer Valerie Simpson is 75. Pop singer Bob Cowsill is 71. Broadcast journalist Bill Whitaker is 69. Actor Brett Cullen is 64. Former NBA coach Stan Van Gundy is 61. Jazz musician Branford Marsalis is 60. Country musician Jimmy Olander (Diamond Rio) is 59. Actor Chris Burke is 55. Actor-singer Shirley Manson (Garbage) is 54. Rock musician Dan Vickrey (Counting Crows) is 54. TV writer-actor Riley Weston is 54. Rock musician Adrian Young (No Doubt) is 51. Actor Melissa McCarthy is 50. Latin pop singer Thalía is 49. Actor Meredith Eaton is 46. Rock singer-musician Tyler Connolly (Theory of a Deadman) is 45. Actor Mike Colter is 44. Actor Macaulay Culkin is 40. Actor Chris Pine is 40. Comedian/actor/writer John Mulaney is 38. Actor Johnny Ray Gill is 36. Country singer Brian Kelley (Florida Georgia Line) is 35. Rhythm-and-blues singer Cassie (AKA Cassie Ventura) is 34. Actor Evan Ross is 32. Actor Danielle Savre is 32. Actor Dylan O’Brien is 29. Actor Keke Palmer is 27.

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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