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# Connecting - October 26, 2018

1 message

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# Connecting

October 26, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

"It didn't last."

Succinct and yet sad, that was the lead in an AP story by **Jonathan Lemire** and **Ken Thomas** on President Trump moving quickly from a call for national unity to finger-pointing and casting blame on the media in the wake of the widening pipe-bomb scare.

Today's Connecting brings you the AP news release and photo of the 2018 Gramling Award winners. We moved a story on President Gary Pruitt's internal announcement of the winners a few weeks ago.

Politico Playbook's Birthday of the Day today featured **Mark Landler**, New York Times White House correspondent, whose parents named him after the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius. How he got his start in journalism: "I joined The Times as a copy boy two weeks after graduating from college. I was in the last generation of kids who still ripped reams of wire copy off a Teletype machine and ran it to the various desks in the newsroom. I also got to fetch dinner for copy editors, work as a leg-man during the Howard Beach murder trial, and sit for hours in a company car, monitoring the comings and goings at John Gotti's house in Queens, for the paper's organized-crime reporter."



**Landler**

Were you, like me and Mark, one of those generations of kids who got paid to rip wire copy off the Teletype machines in a newsroom - not to mention rolling up that dreaded, finger-slicing reperf tape to match it with hard copy wire stories? Tell me your experiences.

### ***Annual Connecting book issue approaching***

**AUTHORS:** If you have written a book in the past year, I invite you to share the following information on it with your colleagues who may soon be in the shopping mode for the upcoming holidays: Name of book and a synopsis of no more than 300 words, a jpg image of the book cover and a jpg headshot of you, where your book can be purchased, including a link. We will publish information on your books in early November, so get me your information by the end of this month.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

# A short-lived call for unity shelved for political barbs



President Donald Trump speaks at a rally at Central Wisconsin Airport in Mosinee, Wis., Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2018. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and KEN THOMAS

WASHINGTON (AP) - It didn't last.

With the country on edge over a widening pipe-bomb scare, talk of national unity quickly gave way to finger-pointing. President Donald Trump cast blame on the media for fomenting anger in society, while candidates across the country traded partisan broadsides.

Less than two weeks before midterm elections, the discovery of pipe bombs sent to prominent Democrats - an episode that might have prompted national reflection in another era - hardly made a ripple on the campaign trail. Attack ads remained on the air. Attack lines stayed in stump speeches. The president did not deliver a speech from the Oval Office or reach out to his predecessor, one of the targets of the threat. He did return to his favorite punching bag.

"A very big part of the Anger we see today in our society is caused by the purposely false and inaccurate reporting of the Mainstream Media that I refer to as Fake News," Trump wrote on Twitter Thursday. "It has gotten so bad and hateful that it is beyond description. Mainstream Media must clean up its act, FAST!"

The reaction was more evidence of the new politics of the Trump era, where unity is overrated, a news cycle moves on fast and there seems to be little incentive for either party to seize the high road. Instead, what might have been a moment for a deeply divided country to come together becomes the latest fodder for Democrats and Republicans to blame each other for America's shortcomings.

Read more [here](#).

## AP Photo of the Day



A police officer and dog are shown outside a postal facility on Thursday in Opa-locka, Fla., as investigators searched for the culprit behind mail bombs around the country. | Wilfredo Lee/AP Photo

## AP announces winners of 2018 Oliver S. Gramling Awards



**Gramling Award winners pose with AP President and CEO Gary Pruitt. From left: photographer Tsvangirayi Mukwazhi, video journalist Rafael Wober, News Director for Lebanon and Syria Zeina Karam, Vatican correspondent Nicole Winfield, Pruitt, correspondent Maggie Michael, and senior developer Senthil Chidambaram. (AP Photo/Stuart Ramson)**

Multiformat journalists and staffers from around the world are among the winners of the 2018 Oliver S. Gramling Awards, the highest internal honor of The Associated Press.

Created in 1994 to recognize AP staffers for professional excellence, the Gramlings are decided each year by a panel of judges from across the news cooperative. The \$10,000 awards come from an estate set up by the late AP broadcast executive Oliver S. Gramling.

The judges this year evaluated submissions in three categories: journalism, achievement and spirit.

"The winners represent the best of AP and share a commitment to our important news mission," said AP President and CEO Gary Pruitt. "Though their jobs and locations vary around the AP world, they are all passionate individuals and their work is inspiring."

Read more [here](#).

# AP's Dennis Redmont portrayed in Portuguese TV series



Dennis Redmont (right) and Simão Cayatte. Photo/Zeynep Tinaz Redmont

**Dennis Redmont** ([Email](#)), currently Head of Communications, Media and Development at the Council for the US and Italy in Rome, will be featured in "3 Mulheres", a 13-part Portuguese public TV series premiering Friday October 26 on RTP 1.

The series, based on real events, shows the efforts of three courageous women, poetess Natália Correia, publisher Snu Abecassis, and journalist Vera Lagoa (pseudonym of Maria Armanda Falcão), to fight the stifling censorship imposed by Premier Antonio Salazar's dictatorship on media outlets.

Simão Cayatte plays Dennis Redmont (photo at right), who as AP correspondent in Lisbon during 1965-1967 experienced first-hand the

pressure from political police and authorities targeting foreign correspondents reporting on the clandestine and public opposition to the government as well as guerrilla activities in the Portuguese colonies.

The TV series may be distributed internationally at a later date.

## A professor's pride in former journalism student



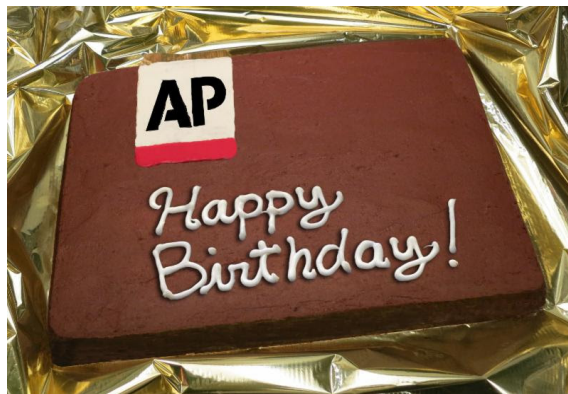
Two Dennises, Young and Old.  
Photo/Zeynep Tinaz Redmont

**Ed Williams** ([Email](#)) - retired Auburn University journalism professor - Real proud of my former student Cliff McCollum! (named to the latest NEX GEN class of SNPA.)

From the Southern Newspapers Press Association, "[Meet the NEX GEN class of 2018-19.](#)" (SNPA's NEX GEN mentor program helps newspaper employees with executive potential develop leadership skills and grow professionally.)

CLIFF McCOLLUM is managing editor of Gulf Coast Media, Foley, Ala. Since joining the staff in April 2014, McCollum has consistently been one of the hardest working members of the staff, serving not only as managing editor of the four weekly papers but as the primary editor, reporter and photographer of two of those papers. Parks Rogers, publisher, said: "He does not shy away from controversy ... and won the prestigious Freedom of Information - First Amendment award from the Alabama Press Association twice." His mentor will be David Woronoff, publisher, The Pilot, Southern Pines, N.C.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

**Charles Bennett - [f8bthere1@hotmail.com](mailto:f8bthere1@hotmail.com)**

*On Saturday to...*

**Terry Anderson - [taa51@hotmail.com](mailto:taa51@hotmail.com)**

*On Sunday to...*

**Andrew Dalton - [adalton@ap.org](mailto:adalton@ap.org)**

## Welcome to Connecting



**Peter Thielen - [petertaka@msn.com](mailto:pertaka@msn.com)**

## Stories of interest



## ***AP Investigation: Hospital patients held hostage for cash***



**Margaret Oliele, former detained patient, poses for a portrait in her home in Nairobi, Kenya. During a botched cesarean section in 2010, doctors left a pair of surgical scissors inside her stomach; a second surgery was needed to remove the scissors and she later suffered a ruptured bladder and a blood infection. When she couldn't pay her hospital fees, Oliele was taken to a detention ward. "I tried to escape, but when I got to the main gate, I was taken by the security guards." (AP Photo/Bram Janssen)**

**By MARIA CHENG**

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) - The Kenyatta National Hospital is east Africa's biggest medical institution, home to more than a dozen donor-funded projects with international partners - a "Center of Excellence," says the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The hospital's website proudly proclaims its motto - "We Listen ... We Care" - along with photos of smiling doctors, a vaccination campaign and staffers holding aloft a gold trophy at an awards ceremony.

But there are no pictures of Robert Wanyonyi, shot and paralyzed in a robbery more than a year ago. Kenyatta will not allow him to leave the hospital because he cannot

pay his bill of nearly 4 million Kenyan shillings (\$39,570). He is trapped in his fourth-floor bed, unable to go to India, where he believes doctors might help him.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Counter-terror bill is a threat to press freedom, say campaigners*** (Guardian)

By JAMIE GRIERSON

New counter-terror powers designed to tackle the "vaguely defined" crime of hostile state activity threaten the protection of journalistic sources, campaigners for freedom of expression and the press have warned.

In a joint statement, nine organisations including Index on Censorship and Reporters Without Borders have called on the House of Lords to recommend significant amendments to the bill as it reaches the closing stages of its passage through parliament.

Unveiled by ministers in the summer, the counter-terrorism and border security bill proposes broad powers for border guards to stop and search individuals without suspicion on the grounds of tackling "hostile state" activity, and would criminalise travel to terrorist hotspots and the viewing of terrorist-linked material online.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

## **The Final Word**

***Name One Really Famous Baseball Player. We'll Wait.*** (New York Times)



**David Ortiz is one of the most followed baseball players on Instagram, as is Alex Rodriguez. Neither of them has played since 2016. Credit - Michael Dwyer/ Associated Press**

**By KEVIN DRAPER**

Major League Baseball has a dream matchup for the World Series as two of its marquee franchises, the Boston Red Sox and the Los Angeles Dodgers, face off.

But oddly it also has a problem: Most people, even sports fans, might struggle to name a single player on the field.

The percentage of Americans who say baseball is their favorite sport to watch is at a low. Fewer baseball players have crossed over into wider popular culture than did a couple of decades ago. There is no Derek Jeter or Ken Griffey Jr. at the moment.

By almost any measure, baseball players just aren't well known. ESPN's annual ranking of the most famous athletes in the world includes 13 basketball players, seven football players, several cricket players, two table tennis stars and zero baseball players. And ESPN is a media partner of M.L.B.

Read more [here](#).

# Today in History - October 26, 2018



## By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Oct. 26, the 299th day of 2018. There are 66 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On October 26th, 1825, the Erie Canal opened in upstate New York, connecting Lake Erie and the Hudson River.

### On this date:

In 1774, the First Continental Congress adjourned in Philadelphia.

In 1881, the "Gunfight at the O.K. Corral" took place in Tombstone, Arizona, as Wyatt Earp, his two brothers and "Doc" Holliday confronted Ike Clanton's gang. Three members of Clanton's gang were killed; Earp's brothers and Holliday were wounded.

In 1942, Japanese planes badly damaged the aircraft carrier USS Hornet in the Battle of Santa Cruz Islands during World War II. (The Hornet sank early the next morning.)

In 1944, the World War II Battle of Leyte Gulf ended in a major Allied victory over Japanese forces, whose naval capabilities were badly crippled.

In 1949, President Harry S. Truman signed a measure raising the minimum wage from 40 to 75 cents an hour.

In 1972, national security adviser Henry Kissinger declared, "Peace is at hand" in Vietnam.

In 1979, South Korean President Park Chung-hee was shot to death by the head of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, Kim Jae-kyu.

In 1984, "Baby Fae," a newborn with a severe heart defect, was given the heart of a baboon in an experimental transplant in Loma Linda, California. (Baby Fae lived 21 days with the animal heart.)

In 1994, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel and Prime Minister Abdel Salam Majali of Jordan signed a peace treaty during a ceremony at the Israeli-Jordanian border attended by President Bill Clinton.

In 2000, the New York Yankees became the first team in more than a quarter-century to win three straight World Series championships, beating the New York Mets 4-to-2 in game five of their "Subway Series." (The Yankees matched the Oakland Athletics' three in a row from 1972-74, and won their fourth title in five years.)

In 2001, President George W. Bush signed the USA Patriot Act, giving authorities unprecedented ability to search, seize, detain or eavesdrop in their pursuit of possible terrorists.

In 2006, a wildfire in Southern California killed five firefighters (investigators later determined the cause of the blaze was arson).

Ten years ago: U.S. military helicopters launched a rare attack on Syrian territory, killing eight people in a strike Damascus condemned as "serious aggression." Tony Hillerman, author of the acclaimed Navajo Tribal Police mystery novels, died in Albuquerque, N.M., at age 83.

Five years ago: A Phoenix man went on a rampage, shooting to death four members of a family who lived next door to him, along with their two dogs, before turning the gun on himself; authorities speculated that the incessant noise of barking dogs drove Michael Guzzo to kill. Third baseman Will Middlebrooks tripped Allen Craig for a game-ending obstruction call on Jon Jay's ninth-inning grounder, giving the St. Louis Cardinals a bizarre 5-4 win over the Boston Red Sox and a 2-1 World Series lead.

One year ago: MSNBC said Mark Halperin had been suspended from his role as a network contributor following charges from five women who claimed he sexually harassed them while he was an ABC News executive. President Donald Trump declared opioid abuse a national public health emergency and announced new steps to combat what he described as the worst drug crisis in U.S. history. At the request of the FBI and CIA, the president blocked the release of hundreds of records on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy while allowing 2,800 other files to come out. After a decade as manager that produced just one World Series title, Joe Girardi was fired by the New York Yankees.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Shelley Morrison is 82. Actress Jaclyn Smith is 73. TV host Pat Sajak is 72. Hillary Rodham Clinton is 71. Musician Bootsy Collins is 67. Actor James Pickens Jr. is 66. Rock musician Keith Strickland (The B-52's) is 65. Actor D.W. Moffett is 64. Actress-singer Rita Wilson is 62. The president of Bolivia, Evo Morales, is 59. Actor Patrick Breen is 58. Actor Dylan McDermott is 57. Actor Cary Elwes is 56. Singer Natalie Merchant is 55. Actor Steve Valentine is 52. Country singer Keith Urban is 51. Actor Tom Cavanagh is 50. Actress Rosemarie DeWitt is 47. Actor Anthony Rapp is 47. Writer-producer Seth MacFarlane (TV: "Family Guy") is 45. TV news correspondent Paula Farris is 43. Actress Lennon Parham is 43. Actress Florence Kasumba is 42. Actor Hal Ozsan is 42. Actor Jon Heder is 41. Singer Mark Barry (BBMak) is 40. Actor Jonathan Chase is 39. Olympic silver medal figure skater Sasha Cohen is 34. Rapper Schoolboy Q is 32. Actor Beulah Koale (TV: "Hawaii Five-0") is 27.

**Thought for Today: "Time sometimes flies like a bird, sometimes crawls like a snail; but a man is happiest when he does not even notice whether it passes swiftly or slowly." - Ivan Turgenev, Russian author (1818-1883).**

## 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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