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# Connecting - June 07, 2019

1 message

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# Connecting

June 07, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 7<sup>th</sup> day of June 2019,

The work of **Howard Gros** has impacted AP operations around the world during his career of nearly four decades.

Gros, who was based in the New Orleans bureau throughout that 37-year career, plans to retire at the end of July.

We also bring you news that **Denne Freeman**, longtime Texas sports editor for the AP, has been inducted into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame. Denne retired from the AP in 1999.

We offer congratulations to them both. If you would like to share a favorite memory of Howard or Denne, send it along.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

## Howard Gros to retire after 37-year career in AP technology operations

Howard Gros, senior director of Global Technology Operations whose reach was worldwide during a career of 37 years from his base in New Orleans, is retiring from The Associated Press at the end of July.

The announcement was made this week by Kurt Rossi, vice president of Global Technology in New York, who said, "Howard's energy, enthusiasm, spirit and discipline have made a lasting impact on the organization."

Gros began his career with AP in 1982 as a technician in Louisiana, Rossi said, "and quickly proved himself a leader. He was promoted to multiple management positions focused around global events and internal support and will leave AP as the senior director of global technology support. Howard is a Gramling Spirit Award winner and has led technology teams covering numerous special events, including political conventions and breaking news stories."



**Howard Gros**

Rossi said Gros played key roles in projects that helped transform the way AP collects and distribute photos and news.

Gros was based in the New Orleans bureau throughout his career. He moved from technician to Field Engineer in 1991, Technical Service Manager in 1994, Project Manager in 1996, Senior Project Manager in 1999, South Regional Director in 2000, Director of Global Technology Support in 2010 and Senior Director of Technology Support in 2015.

Deputy managing editor David Scott had high praise for his work: "I am sure that, like me, many of you have arrived at a major news event - from something planned, like a political convention; or unplanned, like a hurricane - and felt a sense of relief to see that Howard Gros had already arrived. If Howard and his team were on the scene, we'd surely have no issues with power, with connectivity, with water, (with downtime after hours). All we had to do was get the news. Howard had already made sure we could get it out."

Gros told Connecting he had no real idea what AP was about when he was hired in December 1982.

"I had just lost a job in the oilfield and was really just looking for work, then I guess it just got in my blood and couldn't leave," he said. "Coming from a computer and high tech-related job to work on M15/20 printers covered in ink was quite a change but I guess there was some mystique about working for AP at the time that kept me here. And like in most line bureaus, all the staff became family.

"Then AP started going through a technological change that was right up my alley. So I requested to be involved in the LeafDesk project in 1991. From then on I was involved in many of the digital photo projects that changed photography and the way we collected and distributed information to our members and customers. I had the opportunity to teach/train AP techs around the world, even went on a LeafDesk trouble call at Taiwan newspaper after a class in Hong King which was held for techs in the Asia region."

"There are many things and events that I will always remember and working through Katrina ranks really high but what really stands out are the AP people. Like most of us long timers, I've made lifelong friends and sadly lost a few over the last few years.

"Charlene, my wife, who has supported my AP career and I will get to do some traveling together for a change. I'll have time for wood working projects and lots of fishing."

Howard's email is - [hgros@bellsouth.net](mailto:hgros@bellsouth.net)

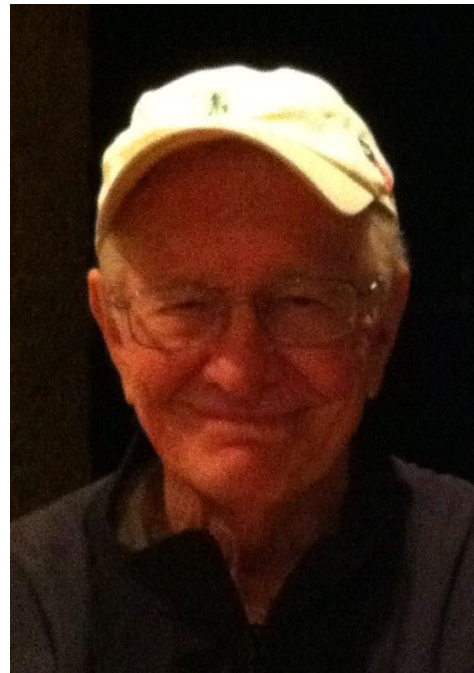
## AP's Denne Freeman inducted into Texas Sports Hall of Fame

Denne H. Freeman, who served as Texas sports editor for The Associated Press for 31 years before retiring in 1999, is among eight honorees to the Texas Sports Hall of Fame.

The honorees are the first media representatives selected for induction into the state hall since 2004. Click [here](#) for a link to the announcement.

The group will be honored at a time and place to be determined. They join the Texas Sports Hall of Fame's inaugural media honorees, a group that included Dan Jenkins, Blackie Sherrod, Dave Campbell, Mickey Herskowitz, Verne Lundquist, Jack Dale, Kern Tips and Frank Fallon.

Freeman joined the AP in Dallas in 1967 after working for United Press International. He became sports editor in May 1968 upon the retirement of Harold Ratliff.



**Denne H. Freeman**

Pro and college football dominated Freeman's time, but he also covered major league baseball, pro and college basketball, the NHL, golf, track and field, and horse racing. He was part of AP teams at the Summer Olympics in Montreal (1976) and Los Angeles ('84), and at all four of golf's majors, the Master's, the U.S. Open, the British Open and the PGA Championship.

Freeman's main beat through the years was the Dallas Cowboys, from the days of Texas Schramm and Tom Landry to the current regime of Jerry Jones and Chan Gailey. He covered all eight Super Bowls in which the Cowboys appeared during his career and he won the prestigious Headliner's Award for his coverage of Landry's firing by Jones.

"Readers of sports pages in Texas and throughout the nation will miss Denne Freeman, even though they may not have known him," AP's Texas Bureau Chief

John Lumpkin said at the time of Freeman's retirement. "I will miss him for his wit and good nature in the line of fire."

Freeman, a Texas A&M graduate, chronicled the Southwest Conference during many of its glory days and its not-so-glorious days. He's also covered the first three seasons of the Big 12. The Dallas native covered every Cotton Bowl since 1967. He also wrote books with former University of Texas coach Darrell Royal and former Baylor coach Grant Teaff.

**Denne's email address is - [freeman.denne@gmail.com](mailto:freeman.denne@gmail.com)**

(Shared by Jamie Aron, Doug Kienitz)

## Connecting mailbox

**Brad Kalbfeld (Email)** - Bob Kimball reminds me that I left a very important eyewitness account out of my D-Day story in Thursday's Connecting: that of long-time AP sportscaster and writer Jack Doniger, who was an engineer on the merchant ship Matthew T. Goldsboro the morning the invasion began.

I first met Jack when we worked together at NBC Radio. He was a gracious and funny colleague, but turned quietly serious when I interviewed him for the D-Day series in 1984. His ship ferried men of the British 8th Army to the invasion beach.

"Oh, were they battle-hardened veterans," he said. "I mean, there were guys on my ship who wanted to buy souvenirs from them before they got on the beach. And I saw 8th Army guys selling rifles -- selling rifles! -- to our guys, and one of them would ask, 'Hey, don't you need this when you're ashore?' And he says, 'There'll be plenty of dead. I'll get one.'"

Jack had a front-row seat to the battle; his ship was just a few hundred yards offshore: "The sky was nothing but light," he told me. "Nothing but light! You talk about fireworks displays, you know, if it wasn't the most awesome thing in the world, in terms of men being killed, obviously, you'd say it was, you know, the fireworks display was fantastic."

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## ***Journalists and cable news programs***

**Mike Rouse** ([Email](#)) - More on journalists and TV talk shows: We usually overestimate the public's understanding of the nuances of our business. If a journalist appears on a talk show with a conservative host, many of the viewers will assume he shares the host's views. Now, more than ever before, the AP should do everything it can to guard its credibility.

**Bob Fick** ([Email](#)) - I couldn't agree more with Ed Tobias (in Thursday's Connecting). AP reporters on MSN and CNN have been right down the line compared to some of the stuff tweeted and posted on Facebook.

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## ***A new use for newspapers***



**Rachel Ambrose** ([Email](#)) - Taken at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College (in Indiana) where I majored in journalism.

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## ***Vets gather on 75th D-Day anniversary***



L-to-R, Brent Kallestad, Bill Kaczor (both AP) and Bill Cotterell, longtime UPI before gaining legendary status at the Tallahassee Democrat. Picture taken on the 75th anniversary. Coincidentally, all three are veterans as well: Kallestad (Navy), Kaczor (Air Force) and Cotterell (Marines).

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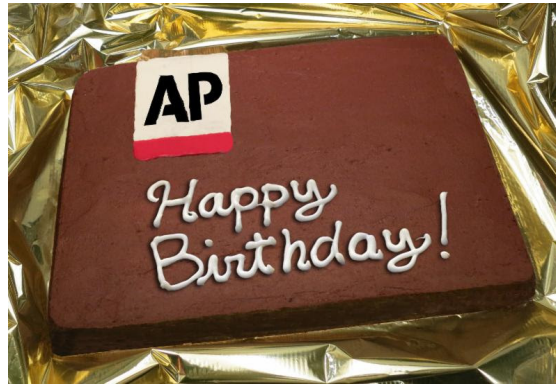
## ***Sunset along the Rhine***



**Ralph Gage (Email)** - Taken on a river cruise, somewhere south of Rudesheim, Germany.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday





To

Hank Waters - [hjwatersiii@gmail.com](mailto:hjwatersiii@gmail.com)

*On Saturday to...*

Joe Galianese - [jgalianese@hotmail.com](mailto:jgalianese@hotmail.com)

Hank Lowenkron - [hlofnyc@yahoo.com](mailto:hlofnyc@yahoo.com)

Matt Mygatt - [mmygatt21@gmail.com](mailto:mmygatt21@gmail.com)

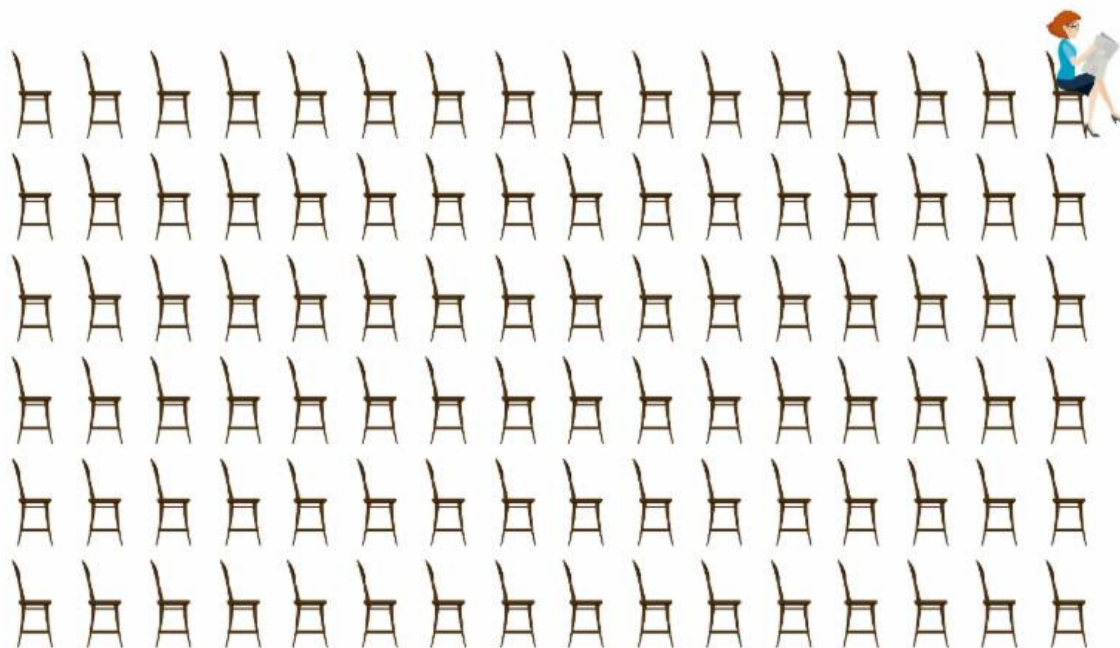
## Welcome to Connecting



Howard Gros - [hgros@bellsouth.net](mailto:hgros@bellsouth.net)

# Stories of interest

## ***Sobering reality for news outlets: Your readers are somewhere else 99% of the time*** (Nieman)



By **MARK JACOB**

Here's a question for local news producers: What are your readers doing when they're not visiting you?

That's the question asked by Northwestern University's Spiegel Research Center in an eye-opening study of three metro news websites, based on data from the media analytics company Comscore. And it's a particularly relevant question, because the study showed that the three news sites commanded less than 1 percent of their desktop users' total web time.

The study, conducted for the Medill Local News Initiative, suggests that news outlets would be wise to broaden their view of their competition, and to analyze those competitors to learn more about what their own audiences want.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Trump wants to change the libel laws. Here's how they came to be.*** (Washington Post)

**By Patricia U. Bonomi**

*Patricia U. Bonomi, professor emerita at New York University, is a specialist in early American history.*

"People think they can say anything and get away with it," President Trump said in a recent tweet. "Really, the libel laws should be changed to hold Fake News Media accountable!" Trump was complaining about a made-up quotation attributed to him in ill-considered jest, but he is just as likely, at any given hour, to complain about "Fake News" that isn't fake at all.

If Trump had lived in the early 18th century, however, he might have sought recourse in the libel laws in either circumstance. He could have shut down a critical press, accurate or otherwise. It was before the First Amendment, before even the Revolution, and truth was not a defense.

But then along came John Peter Zenger, a New York newspaperman who published articles critical of the imperious royal governor of New York, William Cosby. Zenger laid the early groundwork for a free press. His tale has remarkable echoes to today - not just because of its First Amendment ties but because it concerned the unfettered powers of a chief executive. Zenger, a young and little-known printer, had been persuaded by the colony's recently deposed chief justice, Lewis Morris, and Morris's supporters to found the New-York Weekly Journal, an opposition newspaper specifically designed to bring down their nemesis Cosby. Columns in the Journal argued that no man was above the law and listed among their grievances Cosby's unpaid debts and misuse of public money, his efforts to control the courts, his proposed border wall and his cast of enablers.

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

## **Today in History - June 7, 2019**



## By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, June 7, the 158th day of 2019. There are 207 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On June 7, 1998, in a crime that shocked the nation, James Byrd Jr., a 49-year-old black man, was hooked by a chain to a pickup truck and dragged to his death in Jasper, Texas. (Two white men were later sentenced to death; one of them, Lawrence Russell Brewer, was executed in 2011 and the other, John William King, was executed in April, 2019. A third defendant received life with the possibility of parole.)

### On this date:

In 1712, Pennsylvania's colonial assembly voted to ban the further importation of slaves.

In 1769, frontiersman Daniel Boone first began to explore present-day Kentucky.

In 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia offered a resolution to the Continental Congress stating "That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States."

In 1848, French painter and sculptor Paul Gauguin was born in Paris.

In 1892, Homer Plessy, a "Creole of color," was arrested for refusing to leave a whites-only car of the East Louisiana Railroad. (Ruling on his case, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld "separate but equal" racial segregation, a concept it renounced in 1954.)

In 1948, the Communists completed their takeover of Czechoslovakia with the resignation of President Edvard Benes.

In 1958, singer-songwriter Prince was born Prince Rogers Nelson in Minneapolis.

In 1965, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Griswold v. Connecticut*, struck down, 7-2, a Connecticut law used to prosecute a Planned Parenthood clinic in New Haven for providing contraceptives to married couples.

In 1977, Britons thronged London to celebrate the silver jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, who was marking the 25th year of her reign.

In 1981, Israeli military planes destroyed a nuclear power plant in Iraq, a facility the Israelis charged could have been used to make nuclear weapons.

In 1993, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that religious groups could sometimes meet on school property after hours. Ground was broken for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland.

In 2004, a steady, near-silent stream of people circled through the rotunda of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California, where the body of the nation's 40th president lay in repose before traveling to Washington two days later for a state funeral.

Ten years ago: Extreme-right parties gained in European Parliament elections, including the first seats won by the all-white British National Party. Roger Federer completed a career Grand Slam, winning his first French Open title by sweeping surprise finalist Robin Soderling 6-1, 7-6 (1), 6-4. The British musical "Billy Elliot" won 10 Tony Awards, including best musical and a unique best actor prize for the three young performers who shared the title character: David Alvarez, Trent Kowalik and Kiril Kulish.

Five years ago: Actor-comedian Tracy Morgan was critically injured when a Walmart tractor-trailer rammed into his chauffeured limousine bus on the New Jersey

Turnpike, setting off a chain-reaction crash that killed fellow comedian James "Jimmy Mack" McNair. Ukraine's new president, Petro Poroshenko, took the oath of office, calling for pro-Russian rebels in the country's east to lay down their arms. Maria Sharapova won her second French Open title in three years, beating fourth-seeded Simona Halep 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-4 in the final. California Chrome failed in his bid to win the first Triple Crown in 36 years, losing the Belmont Stakes by coming in fourth to long shot Tonalist.

One year ago: The Trump administration said in a court filing that it would no longer defend key parts of the Affordable Care Act, including provisions that guarantee access to health insurance regardless of any medical conditions; it was a rare departure from the Justice Department's practice of defending federal laws in court. In advance of a summit with North Korea's Kim Jong Un, President Donald Trump declared that "attitude" is more important than preparation. A government report found that suicide rates inched up in nearly every U.S. state from 1999 through 2016. The Washington Capitals claimed their first NHL title with a 4-3 victory over the Vegas Golden Knights in Game 5 of the Stanley Cup Final in Las Vegas.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director James Ivory is 91. Former Canadian Prime Minister John Turner is 90. Actress Virginia McKenna is 88. Singer Tom Jones is 79. Actor Ronald Pickup is 79. Poet Nikki Giovanni is 76. Actor Ken Osmond (TV: "Leave It to Beaver") is 76. Former talk show host Jenny Jones is 73. Americana singer-songwriter Willie Nile is 71. Actress Anne Twomey is 68. Actor Liam Neeson is 67. Actress Colleen Camp is 66. Singer-songwriter Johnny Clegg is 66. Author Louise Erdrich is 65. Actor William Forsythe is 64. Record producer L.A. Reid is 63. Latin pop singer Juan Luis Guerra is 62. Vice President Mike Pence is 60. Rock singer-musician Gordon Gano (The Violent Femmes) is 56. Rapper Ecstasy (Whodini) is 55. Rock musician Eric Kretz (Stone Temple Pilots) is 53. Rock musician Dave Navarro is 52. Actress Helen Baxendale is 49. Actor Karl Urban is 47. TV personality Bear Grylls is 45. Rock musician Eric Johnson (The Shins) is 43. Actress Adrienne Frantz is 41. Actor-comedian Bill Hader is 41. Actress Anna Torv is 40. Actress Larisa Oleynik is 38. Former tennis player Anna Kournikova is 38. Actor Michael Cera is 31. Actress Shelley Buckner is 30. Rapper Iggy Azalea is 29. Actress-model Emily Ratajkowski is 28. Rapper Fetty Wap is 28.

**Thought for Today: "That would be a good thing for them to cut on my tombstone: 'Wherever she went, including here, it was against her better judgment.'" -- Dorothy Parker, American writer (born 1893, died this date in 1967).**

## Connecting calendar



**June 20** - 25-Year Club Celebration, 5:30 - 8 p.m., AP headquarters, 200 Liberty Street, New York, NY. RSVP online [here](#). Any questions may be directed to [recognition@ap.org](mailto:recognition@ap.org)

**August 17** - Albany AP bureau reunion (including other upstate bureaus), 1-5 p.m., Marc and Carla Humbert residence on Tsatsawassa Lake, [68 Marginal Way, East Nassau, NY](#). Contact: Chris McKnight ([Email](#)).

## 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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