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# Connecting - October 22, 2019

1 message

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# Connecting

October 22, 2019

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*Hello from the Holy Land*



Paul's and Linda's Holy Land pilgrimage has begun. From Herod the Great's fortress and palace, with Bethlehem in the left background and Jerusalem in the right. Paul reports a Dead Sea swim is up next.

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### **AP's Walker to be inducted into TSWA Hall of Fame**

The Tennessee Sports Writers Association announced its newest members of the TSWA Hall of Fame last week, including Teresa Walker of The Associated Press. She and two others will be inducted into the Hall of Fame on July 9, 2020, at Cumberland University.

A native of Homestead, Fla., Walker is a two-time Tennessee Sportswriter of the Year and won an APSE for feature writing in 2015 for a story from the Masters.

A graduate of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville in June 1987, she went to work as a news reporter for The Daily Times in Maryville. She covered one high school football game and wrote one sports column and a feature on Hoosier racing tires while mostly covering education, courts and the police beat.

Hired by The AP in Nashville in December 1989, Walker wrote college football and basketball games from around Tennessee by phone for the first two years. She became Tennessee sports editor in June 1992 and has covered five Olympics, three Super Bowls, a handful of Southeastern Conference men's and women's basketball tournaments, several NCAA Tournaments and regional finals and the 2014 Women's



Final Four in Nashville. She covered the relocation of the NFL's Houston Oilers between 1995 and 1997, taking over as beat writer upon the team's arrival in Nashville in July 1997.

Walker became one of the AP's Pro Football Writers helping cover the NFL in 2014 and is the first president of the Pro Football Writers Association's Nashville chapter. She also is a past president of the TSWA. She has covered the NHL's Nashville Predators, including the 2017 Stanley Cup Final; Vanderbilt football, men's and women's basketball and baseball; the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies and the Memphis Tigers.

Walker becomes the first female sports writer selected for the TSWA Hall of Fame and only the third female elected by the association.

Contributed by Adam Yeomans ([Email](#)).

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### **Anatomy of a phone call: New details of Trump's Ukraine call revealed**

President Donald Trump's July phone call with Ukraine's president, and the ensuing impeachment investigation, has been the hottest story in Washington for weeks. It's extremely challenging to find new ways to report on the conversation and gather new details of how a rough transcript of the call was created and handled.

Deb Riechmann managed to do it all, with a deeply reported 1,800-word story that laid out everything we know about who was on the call, how such conversations are memorialized and what happens to the rough transcripts once they are created.

For uncovering tantalizing new details about Trump's fateful phone call with the Ukraine president, AP's last week's Best of the Week citation goes to White House reporter Deb Riechmann.

Read more [here](#).

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### **APNewsBreak: Records show Montana official's misuse of state vehicle**

When the Helena Police Department cited the statute of limitations in declining to bring charges against Montana Secretary of State Corey Stapleton for misuse of a state-owned vehicle, Helena reporter Amy Hanson dug deeper.

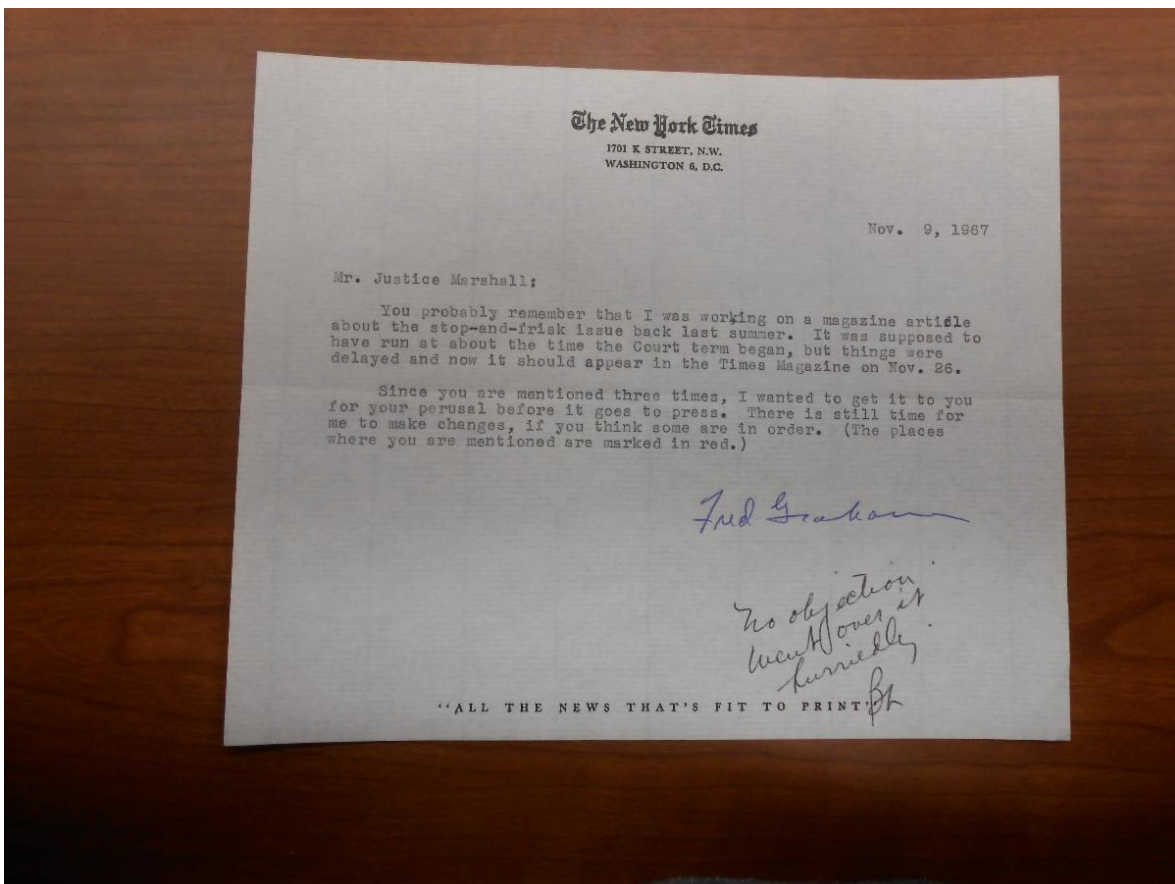
After multiple public-records requests Hanson found that Secretary of State Corey Stapleton traveled tens of thousands of miles more than what had been previously reported, including many times when he had no official events on his calendar. And she found that the misuse continued until he turned in the vehicle in March, well within the statute of limitations.

For determined reporting that resulted in a textbook example of accountability journalism, Amy Hanson wins this week's Best of the States award.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting mailbox

*Then, again, I have never interviewed a Supreme Court Justice*



Dennis Conrad ([Email](#)) - The recent controversy regarding the reporting practices of John Solomon triggered my memory of some research I did at the Library of Congress some years ago while reviewing the records of the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. I came across a letter dated 11-9-1967 from noted journalist Fred Graham, then with The New York Times, later with CBS News, etc., to Justice Marshall.

Graham shared his article in advance of publication with Justice Marshall for his review. It is then initialed by someone, apparently Justice Marshall: "No objection. Went over it hurriedly."

I was surprised to see that Graham had shared the article in advance and took a photo of the letter. During the decades when I was a reporter for various news organizations, large and small, including newspapers owned by the New York Times Co. in Florida in the 1970s and 1980s, I did not understand this to be an acceptable journalistic practice.

I have never done what Graham did. Then, again, I have never interviewed a Supreme Court justice.

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### *Choosing sports writing over ice house work*

Joe McGowen ([Email](#)) - I enjoyed Norm Abelson's account of working in the Boston Ice Co.

While a student at U. of Wyoming, I worked nights as sports editor of the Laramie Morning Bulletin. As we neared the end of the spring semester, I knew the small salary as sports editor would not be enough to get me through the next academic year. By luck, I found a job working at the Union Pacific Railroad's ice house on the north side of Laramie. I told the Bulletin editor I was going to have to quit, but he replied that there was little sports in Laramie during the summer, so he would give me the summer off, and I could report back in the fall.

During Wyoming's frigid winter months, workmen went to the frozen Laramie River and chopped out 200 pound blocks of ice, which then went by conveyor belt up into the ice house. This was before the days of the refrigerated produce cars. So during the summer, trains carrying fruit and produce from California, stopped at the Laramie ice house. We workmen had poles with a sharp point on the end and a hook below that. We would use the hook to pull ice blocks over to the top of the freight cars, open a lid on each end, and fill the end sections with ice. We would close the lids, and the train would leave for the Midwest.

Our ice house boss was a big Swede, and as a train was leaving, he would say, "OK men, vee go schloosh". That meant we would take sticks with rubber going horizontally at the bottom. We would then "schloosh" the ice particles over to a large tube that dumped them back into the river for use the next winter. It was good to get back to sports writing that fall!

### Stories of interest

*'We Have A Big Responsibility': Facebook Rolls Out New Election Security Measures*  
(NPR)

**By Shannon Bond**

Facebook announced new efforts Monday to curb the spread of false information on its platform ahead of the 2020 presidential election.

But, in an acknowledgement of the struggle the social network faces to stay ahead of groups intent on manipulating its users, Facebook said it had taken down another

set of disinformation networks, this time tied to Iran and Russia. That adds to the more than 50 such networks the company said it has already removed in the past year.

The social media giant is under pressure to stop a repeat of 2016, when Russian trolls spread disinformation on the platform.

"Elections have changed significantly since 2016, but Facebook has changed, too," said Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's chief executive, on a call with reporters. "We know that we have a big responsibility to secure our platform and stay ahead of some of these new threats to election security," he said, adding that the issue is one of his "top priorities."

Among the changes unveiled on Monday, Zuckerberg said Facebook make it more clear to users who is behind the posts they may see in their feeds.

Read more [here](#).

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*Australian newspapers redact front pages  
to protest media curbs  
(Reuters)*

By Colin Packham, Jonathan Barrett

SYDNEY - Australia's biggest newspapers ran front pages on Monday made up to appear heavily redacted, in a protest against legislation that restricts press freedoms, a rare show of unity by the usually partisan media industry.

Australia has no constitutional safeguards for free speech, although the government added a provision to protect whistleblowers when it strengthened counter-espionage laws in 2018. Media groups say press freedoms remain restricted.

Mastheads from the domestic unit of Rupert Murdoch's conservative News Corp (NWSA.O) and fierce newspaper rivals at Nine Entertainment ([NEC.AX](#)) ran front pages with most of the words blacked out, giving the impression the copy had been censored, in the manner of a classified government document.

Contributed by Doug Pizak ([Email](#)). Read more [here](#).

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*As Local News Outlets Shutter,  
Rural America Suffers Most  
(Stateline, an initiative of The Pew Charitable Trusts)*

By April Simpson

Journalism professor Penny Muse Abernathy lives in a news desert. She says there's little local media coverage of Scotland County, North Carolina, among the

poorest in the Tar Heel state. Her television news broadcasts come from neighboring South Carolina.

As a result, it's difficult to find local news or information on relevant state issues that she could vote on, Abernathy said.

A vibrant free press, protected from government interference by the First Amendment, can hold the powerful to account and empower readers to make informed decisions on major issues. Newspapers and other local media outlets reflect community values, and when they go under, there is less coverage of the high school sports and community events that bind people together.

Amid the steady decline in local news, some states are considering stepping in to support the Fourth Estate. But critics worry that doing so might undermine the press's role as a government watchdog.

"There's this adversarial relationship that exists and needs to exist," said Al Cross, director of the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues at the University of Kentucky in Lexington.

News deserts - communities with limited access to credible and comprehensive news - are especially prevalent in rural America. More than 500 of the 1,800 newspapers that have closed or merged since 2004 were in rural communities, according to a 2018 report, "The Expanding News Desert," written by Abernathy for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Center for Innovation and Sustainability in Local Media.

Read more [here](#).

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*Original ESPN reporter, anchor Lou Palmer dies at 83 after lung cancer battle*  
(USA Today)

By Chris Bumbaca

Original ESPN on-air commentator and former "SportsCenter" reporter and anchor Lou Palmer has died. He was 83.

Palmer's daughter, Patty Puma-Conrad, told ESPN that Palmer died Friday in Wellington, Florida, after a battle with lung cancer.

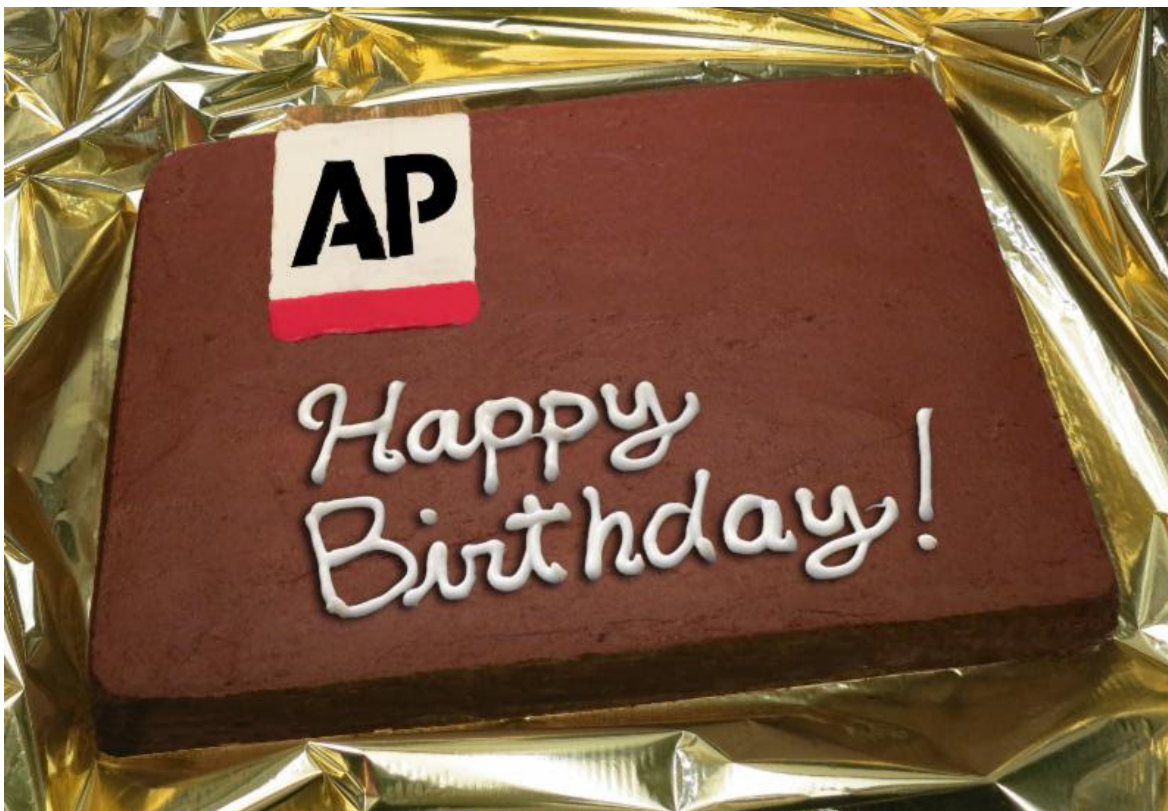
He was hired a year before the network officially launched in 1985. According to station founder Bill Rasmussen, Palmer was part of the first live ESPN event in October 1978 - a "demonstration" feed of a University of Connecticut basketball event for network executives.

In a statement, ESPN said Palmer brought "a professionalism to the network that helped establish a rock-solid foundation for SportsCenter and our baseball coverage. ESPN extends its sympathy to Lou's family and the many people he touched during his accomplished career."

Palmer left ESPN in 1985 and went on to be one of the first studio anchors at WFAN radio in New York. He later served as a public-address announcer for minor league baseball games in Florida.

"He brought much-needed experience at the very beginning, a deep love of baseball, and the ability to write, anchor and bring authority to anything he touched," said Bob Ley, one of Palmer's ESPN teammates, in a statement. "Lou was a joy to work with, a fellow Seton Hall Pirate, and in a newsroom where everyone had their nickname, he was universally known and loved as 'Sweet Lou.'"

### Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



#### To

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John Montgomery - [johndmont2@gmail.com](mailto:johndmont2@gmail.com)

Today in History - October 22, 2019





By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 22, the 295th day of 2019. There are 70 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 22, 1962, in a nationally broadcast address, President John F. Kennedy revealed the presence of Soviet-built missile bases under construction in Cuba and announced a quarantine of all offensive military equipment being shipped to the Communist island nation.

On this date:

In 1797, French balloonist Andre-Jacques Garnerin (gahr-nayr-AN') made the first parachute descent, landing safely from a height of about 3,000 feet over Paris.

In 1811, composer and piano virtuoso Franz Liszt was born in the Hungarian town of Raiding (RY'-ding) in present-day Austria.

In 1934, bank robber Charles "Pretty Boy" Floyd was shot to death by federal agents and local police at a farm near East Liverpool, Ohio.

In 1979, the U.S. government allowed the deposed Shah of Iran to travel to New York for medical treatment - a decision that precipitated the Iran hostage crisis.

In 1981, the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization was decertified by the federal government for its strike the previous August.

In 1986, President Reagan signed into law sweeping tax-overhaul legislation.

In 1991, the European Community and the European Free Trade Association concluded a landmark accord to create a free trade zone of 19 nations by 1993. In 1995, the largest gathering of world leaders in history marked the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

In 1998, the government advised parents to remove the batteries from their kids' "Power Wheels" cars and trucks, made by Fisher-Price, because of faulty wiring that could cause them to erupt into flame.

In 2001, a second Washington, D.C., postal worker, Joseph P. Curseen, died of inhalation anthrax.

In 2002, bus driver Conrad Johnson was shot to death in Aspen Hill, Md., in the final attack carried out by the "Beltway Snipers."

In 2004, in a wrenching videotaped statement, aid worker Margaret Hassan, kidnapped in Baghdad, begged the British government to help save her by withdrawing its troops from Iraq, saying these "might be my last hours." (Hassan was apparently killed by her captors a month later.)

Ten years ago: Mortars fired by Islamic militants slammed into Somalia's airport as President Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed boarded a plane, sparking battles that killed at least 24 people; the president was unhurt. Gunmen kidnapped Gauthier Lefevre, a French staff member working for the International Committee of the Red Cross, in Sudan's western Darfur region. (Lefevre was released in March 2010.) Comedian Soupy Sales died in New York at age 83.

Five years ago: A gunman shot and killed a soldier standing guard at a war memorial in Ottawa, then stormed the Canadian Parliament before he was shot and killed by the usually ceremonial sergeant-at-arms.

One year ago: President Donald Trump declared that the U.S. would start cutting aid to three Central American countries he accused of failing to stop thousands of migrants heading for the U.S. border. A bomb was found in a mailbox at the suburban New York home of liberal billionaire philanthropist George Soros; federal agents safely detonated the device after being summoned by a security officer.

Today's Birthdays: Black Panthers co-founder Bobby Seale is 83. Actor Christopher Lloyd is 81. Actor Derek Jacobi is 81. Actor Tony Roberts is 80. Movie director Jan (yahn) de Bont is 76. Actress Catherine Deneuve is 76. Rock singer/musician Eddie Brigati is 74. Rock musician Leslie West (Mountain) is 74. Former Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour is 72. Actor Jeff Goldblum is 67. Rock musician Greg Hawkes is 67. Movie director Bill Condon is 64. Actor Luis Guzman is 63. Actor-writer-producer Todd Graff is 60. Rock musician Cris Kirkwood is 59. Actor-comedian Bob Odenkirk is 57. Olympic gold medal figure skater Brian Boitano is 56. Christian singer TobyMac is 55. Singer-songwriter John Wesley Harding (Wesley Stace) is 54. Actress Valeria Golino is 53. Comedian Carlos Mencia is 52. Country singer Shelby Lynne is 51. Reggae rapper Shaggy is 51. Movie director Spike Jonze is 50. Rapper Tracey Lee is 49. Actress Saffron Burrows is 47. Actress Carmen Ejogo is 46. Former MLB player Ichiro Suzuki (EE'-cheer-oh soo-ZOO'-kee) is 46. Actor Jesse Tyler Ferguson is 44. Christian rock singer-musician Jon Foreman (Switchfoot) is 43. Actor Michael Fishman is 38. Talk show host Michael Essany is 37. New York Mets infielder Robinson Cano is 37. Rock musician Rickard (correct) Goransson (Carolina Liar) is 36. Rock musician Zac Hanson (Hanson) is 34. Actor Corey Hawkins is 31. Actor Jonathan Lipnicki is 29. Actress Sofia Vassilieva (vas-ihl-lee-A'-vuh) is 27. Actor Elias Harger is 12.

**Thought for Today: "A person often meets his destiny on the road he took to avoid it." - Jean de La Fontaine, French poet (1621-1695).**

## 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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