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Sent: Saturday, April 12, 2014 9:54 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - April 12, 2014

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Connecting

April 12, 2014



A photograph of Associated Press photojournalist Anja Niedringhaus is displayed inside Corvey Abbey during her funeral in Hoexter, Germany, Saturday, April 12, 2014. Niedringhaus was killed by an Afghan policeman in an attack on April 4, 2014 in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Frank Augstein, pool)

Remembering Anja

HOEXTER, Germany (AP) - Hundreds of mourners packed a church in central Germany on Saturday to remember Associated Press photographer **Anja Niedringhaus**, who was killed on assignment in Afghanistan last week after a life spent between the chaos of war and the serenity of her rural birthplace.

Friends, family and colleagues of Niedringhaus packed Corvey Abbey in a medieval monastery in Hoexter. She was remembered for her ability to find humanity amid terrible events.

A priest read out a letter from AP special correspondent **Kathy Gannon**, who was wounded in the April 4 attack that killed Niedringhaus. Gannon, 60, and Niedringhaus, 48, often teamed up on assignments.

Gannon recalled some of Niedringhaus' last words: "I am so happy."

"You were so happy," the letter read. "Your heart knew no bounds. You wanted to help everyone."

A black casket topped with a row of white flowers was surrounded by wreaths near steps leading up to the altar, where a large photograph of Niedringhaus was placed. Bells pealed before the start of the service, and mourners sang "We Shall Overcome" and heard a rendition of "Somewhere over the Rainbow."

After the service, a procession of mourners walked a few kilometers along the Weser River to the local cemetery for her burial on a bright, sunny day.

AP Senior Vice President and Executive Editor **Kathleen Carroll** said Niedringhaus loved to capture calm when there was chaos all around her.

"And I believe that is why her pictures from terrible places resonated with so many people around the world," Carroll said. "She found their dignity. She found the quiet human moments that connected people in great strife to all the rest of us around the world."

The Rev. Berndt Mueller's sermon highlighted the two worlds between which Niedringhaus moved: major world events from wars to summits and sporting contests, and the tranquil farm life of central Germany.

"Restless Anja, spending her life between extreme poles," Mueller said.

That same duality was present during the service, with family and townspeople sitting alongside reporters and photographers who travelled from around the world to remember Niedringhaus from shared assignments.



Niedringhaus started her career as a freelance photographer for a local newspaper in Hoexter at the age of 16. Her coverage of the fall of the Berlin Wall led to a staff position with the European Pressphoto Agency in 1990. Based in Frankfurt, Sarajevo and Moscow, she spent much of her time covering the brutal conflict in the former Yugoslavia.

She joined the AP in 2002, and while based in Geneva worked throughout the Middle East as well as Afghanistan and Pakistan. She was part of the AP team that won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Photography for coverage of Iraq, among many journalistic awards and honors for her work. In 2006-07, she studied at Harvard University under a Nieman Fellowship.

Niedringhaus was killed when an Afghan police unit commander walked up to the car where she was sitting in the back seat and opened fire after yelling "Allahu Akbar," or "God is Great." She and Gannon were traveling in a convoy of election workers delivering ballots in the eastern city of Khost, under the protection of security forces, when the shooting happened.

The unit commander, identified as Naqibullah, surrendered immediately after the shooting and government authorities are now investigating why he opened fire.



AP Director of Photography Santiago Lyon called Niedringhaus "a lighthouse guiding us to safety," and Carroll recalled her ability to show compassion in the face of tragedy and her talent in offering direction to young photographers.

"We are grateful for all that you have given us," she said. "And we will always hear your voice in our ears: 'nein, nein, nein, you can do better. I'm proud of you.'"

Stories of interest

AP: 'Damn' and 'hell' OK, but not most other profanity

"I'm not sure everyone's OK with news media keeping up with the latest vulgarities," AP standards editor Tom Kent writes in a post on the suddenly kind of hot topic of whether news organizations should publish profanity. "For instance, if our stories were as laced with things 'sucking' as common speech is, readers might find it very tedious very fast."

[Pulitzer Preview: Snowden factor, and more on prize prospects for Monday](#) (Bob Daugherty)

The Pulitzer Prize announcements shook with real-world drama last year, interrupted by reports of bombs exploding at the Boston Marathon finish line. This coming Monday, though, expect another kind of drama: over whether blockbuster coverage of the shocking level of National Security Agency surveillance of Americans - coverage based on whistleblower Edward Snowden's stolen top-secret documents - will win a Pulitzer for the U.S. website of the British-based Guardian, and perhaps The Washington Post as well.

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[This Week in Review: Vox and the wonk boom, and Comcast defends its TWC merger plans](#)

This week's essential reads: If you've only got a minute or two, this week's essential reads are Felix Salmon on the boom in wonk journalism, David Carr with big questions for Comcast and Time Warner Cable about their merger, and Washington Post editor Marty Baron's reasons for optimism about the future of journalism.

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[Pioneering Black Newsman In The White House Belatedly Gets His Due](#)

The White House Correspondents' Association will name a college scholarship this year in honor of the first black journalist to cover a presidential news conference. For Harry McAlpin, the recognition is 70 years overdue. McAlpin, a correspondent for the Atlanta Daily World, covered his first Oval Office press conference in 1944 over the objection of the Correspondents' Association. At the time, the association was an all-white club and for years it blocked black journalists from attending.

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[Digital First names David J. Butler its editor-in-chief](#)

David J. Butler is the new editor-in-chief of Digital First Media, the company announced Friday. In 2011 MediaNews (which later placed its newspapers under DFM's management) put Butler in charge of its Bay Area News Group properties, including the San Jose Mercury News, which he still edits. (Dave is married to Kate Lee Butler, AP's national Vice President for membership and local markets; they live in San Jose.)

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[Henry Waxman asks Tribune CEO to reconsider newspaper spinoff](#)

U.S. Rep. Henry Waxman has sent a letter to Tribune Co. CEO Peter Liguori saying interviews with experts "raised serious concerns about the future of the Los Angeles Times" should the company go ahead with its plan to spin off its newspaper division.

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Dozens Laid Off at Al Jazeera America (Doug Pizac)

Al Jazeera America, which launched last August with nearly 850 employees and 12 news bureaus in the United States, has laid off dozens of employees as part of restructuring. The channel is disbanding its sports unit and scaling back its social-media-driven show The Stream from a daily show to a once-a-week program.

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Tony Norman: Pa. has lost two fine journalists for good

I knew this was going to be a tough week when word circulated that former Philadelphia Daily News columnist Charles Sumner "Chuck" Stone, 89, had died in an assisted living facility in Chapel Hill, N.C.

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Best of the States

The death of actor Philip Seymour Hoffman refocused attention on heroin abuse in the United States and prompted media organizations large and small to produce stories looking at the problem in their coverage areas. AP was after something different.

In fact, a team of journalists across the United States was already working on an in-depth look at heroin use nationwide even before Hoffman's high-profile overdose. Their modest goal: To use AP's scope and presence across all 50 states to make a comprehensive assessment of heroin's rise, to explore the underlying reasons behind it, and to show how the drug is upending the lives of people and communities across the country.

What resulted from their efforts was the most comprehensive look yet at heroin use across America that encompassed three full days of stories and glances, a data-rich interactive looking at the changing rates of drug abuse, two video stories and numerous photos. The all-formats package joins several other recent enterprise efforts in which AP customers have produced their own local journalism and run it alongside AP's national- and state-level reporting. And we had several state-specific sidebars, as well as a state-by-state glance detailing the heroin problem by the numbers across the country.

The editorial and revenue teams coordinated closely on the release, resulting in excellent play across formats. One newspaper in Pennsylvania devoted its entire front page to heroin stories - including AP's and their own. Dozens of other newspapers ran it on their front pages, and it was prominently featured on portals and other websites. The first-day story was among the most viewed AP Mobile stories of the week, and the Mobile team aggregated the entire series into a "Big Story" tile that continues to be featured prominently on the app.

This was a true team effort, begun in late January with an early brainstorming conversation among several state news editors, leaders of the East region, reporters already covering the topic, U.S. Enterprise Editor Pauline Arrillaga and NewsFeatures Editor Jerry Schwartz. The work was spread to

reporters across the nation: Nigel Duara in Oregon, Amy Forliti in Minnesota & Dan Sewell in Ohio focused in the kickoff text story on how three towns in three states have struggled with heroin; Meghan Barr reported on how lack of insurance coverage, jammed rehab facilities & expensive treatment prevent users from getting help, sometimes with fatal consequences. National Writer Sharon Cohen related one addict's story, a piece that resonated with scores of ex-addicts and family members who reached out to Cohen with words of thanks. Andrew Welsh-Huggins in Ohio worked with the states to compile a revealing national statistical summary of heroin's toll on individual states. Those places with more significant problems churned out their own state-specific sidebars.

The all-formats effort was made complete with compelling pictures from photographers Charlie Arbogast, Mel Evans, Beбето Matthews, Jae Hong, Al Behrman and Steve Dykes; video stories about treatment and one addict produced by Dave Martin and Teresa Crawford; and an interactive and print graphic produced by Sean McDade and Pete Santilli.

For their work in producing a robust package that tells the story of heroin in America in 2014, Duara, Barr, Forliti, Sewell, Welsh-Huggins and Cohen win this week's Best of the States prize.

Other work that impressed the judges:

_ Jim Salter, supervisory correspondent, St. Louis, and Andrew Welsh-Huggins, legal affairs writer, Columbus, for their timely enterprise off the news offering a comprehensive look at the extensive secrecy surrounding lethal injection drugs in the U.S. and the quickening pace of legal challenges to states' refusal to disclose information. The story found that most of the 32 death penalty states _ including some most active with executions _ refuse to reveal the source of the drugs or even more basic information such as supply and cost.

_ Mark Scolforo, newsman, Harrisburg, Pa., for being first to report that the Pennsylvania House had moved to ban most types of cash gifts to state representatives. The story moved at least an hour before any other outlets were able to match and moved in time for broadcasters to report it in their noon reports.

<http://bit.ly/1e9LobU>

_ Amy Taxin, newswoman, Orange County, Calif., and Elliot Spagat, correspondent, San Diego, for reporting a sharp drop in the number of jailed immigrants turned over to federal authorities for deportation, thanks to a California law passed last year to blunt a federal program that immigrant advocates said was overreaching. Taxin and Spagat surveyed the sheriff's departments in the counties responsible for most deportations, and found a 43 percent decline in the first two months of the year.

_ Ray Henry, newsman, Atlanta, for a 10-minute beat and a video exclusive on Atlanta Archbishop Winton Gregory's decision to sell his \$2.2 million mansion, a residence that generated controversy amid intensified scrutiny of church spending at a time when Pope Francis wants to focus on the poor.

<http://aol.it/1e5BLKN>

_ Sadie Gurman, newswoman, Denver, for reporting that illegal marijuana sales and violence continue three months into Colorado's legalization experiment _ and that law enforcement officials in Colorado and Washington state, which also legalized marijuana, don't expect it to diminish for the foreseeable future.

<http://bit.ly/1IG2vSo>

_ Shawn Chen, Roque Ruiz and Francois Duckett, Interactives, for a same-day interactive on the Fort Hood shooting that might normally take days. A locator and a photo showing the gates of Fort Hood were the first visuals attached to the urgent text series.

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