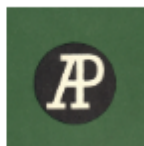


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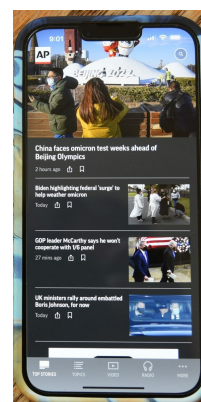
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Connecting

March 11, 2022

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)
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[Connecting Archive](#)
[AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)
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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this March 11, 2022,

#FreeAmirAmanKiyaro

That is the hashtag the AP is using to help draw attention to the detention of **Amir Aman Kiyaro**, a freelance journalist accredited with the AP who has been jailed in Ethiopia since last November.

“With his detention now stretching beyond 100 days and no charges filed, we are renewing our calls for his immediate release,” AP Executive Editor **Julie Pace** said. “We just moved a story on his situation, which includes an appeal from his wife, who is eight months pregnant, and his mother.

“We would encourage AP staff to join us in sharing Amir’s story, including on social media if you are active in that space. We are using the hashtag #FreeAmirAmanKiyaro to help draw attention to his detention.”

Have a good weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

AP calls for release of Ethiopian journalist in detention



Freelance video journalist Amir Aman Kiyaro, who is accredited to The Associated Press, poses for a photograph in Ethiopia on Sunday, Oct. 17, 2021. The Associated Press and press freedom advocates are calling for the immediate release of Kiyaro, who marked 100 days in detention without charge in March 2022. (AP Photo)

NEW YORK (AP) — Amir Aman Kiyaro, a freelance journalist accredited to The Associated Press, marked 100 days in detention without charge in Ethiopia this week, prompting the news organization and press freedom advocates to reiterate their calls to free him immediately.

“Kiyaro has not been charged with any crime and is being held unjustly,” AP Executive Editor Julie Pace said in a statement Thursday.

The video journalist was detained Nov. 28 in Ethiopia’s capital, Addis Ababa, under the country’s war-related state of emergency powers. The state of emergency was lifted last month, with the government citing changing conditions in the deadly conflict between Ethiopian forces and those of the northern Tigray region.

“As we have said, Kiyaro is an independent journalist who has done important work in Ethiopia on all sides of the conflict. It is clear he is being targeted for his journalism,” Pace said.

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

A Russian journalist who put down his pen, picked up a rifle for the resistance

Michael Putzel – former AP Moscow bureau chief - Sergei Loiko, a Russian who got his start in journalism as a translator in the AP Moscow bureau and won awards for his coverage of combat in Ukraine eight years ago, picked up an automatic weapon this week and declared he wants to “kill Putin” fighting for the Ukrainians battling to fend off a powerful Russian invasion force.

“I have never taken sides,” Loiko said in a video from Kyiv posted initially on YouTube and Facebook, where he has 65,000 “friends.” I’ve never taken up arms,” he added, “but this is different. This is an assault rifle in my hands, and I’m here in Kyiv, in Ukraine, not as a journalist, but as a fighter in this Armageddon struggle between good and evil.”

Flanked by uniformed Ukrainian soldiers in the first video, Loiko described himself as 69 years old and a 27-year veteran of reporting for the Los Angeles Times. Loiko’s first work in news was as a translator for AP during the Gorbachev years, when Soviet society was beginning to open up from 70 years of authoritarian Communist rule and Western news

agencies began hiring outside the Soviet agency that supplied their local staffs. He was quick, passionate about real news and worked his way into the news report. Michael Parks, the late editor of the LA Times, was the paper’s Moscow bureau chief at the time and hired him away from AP, dangling an opportunity to become the first Russian staff correspondent for the newspaper.

His story was told Thursday [by Rolling Stone](#) – with the headline, “‘I Want to Kill Putin’: Meet the Russian Journalist Defending Ukraine From His Own Countrymen”



McConnell book: Tight-lipped senator opens archive to AP reporter

Mike Allen, Axios

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), one of America's most inscrutable power players, has made the surprising decision to open his archive to a journalist, and sit for long interviews.

Why it matters: McConnell's signature has been to keep his counsel and hide his emotions — rarely showing his hand or sharing his mind, as he outfoxed opponents, generation after generation.

Mike Tackett — AP's deputy Washington bureau chief, and a former New York Times political reporter — has signed to write a McConnell biography, "The Price of Power," for Simon & Schuster.

I'm told Tackett has been granted extensive interviews with McConnell and access to his vast archive — his receipts.

The trove includes everything from childhood mementoes to official papers. Tackett has begun the interviews.

The book, from powerhouse editor Priscilla Painton, is billed as a deep dive on "one of the most guarded and powerful actors in the nation's capital ... one of the most consequential political figures of this century."

No publication date is set — it's likely years away.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Myron Belkind.

New-member profile: Douglas Mine

Douglas Mine (byline Douglas Grant Mine) was a correspondent in southern South America, then Central America, in the '80s and early '90s. He had joined the AP in the Broadcast department at 50 Rock in 1979, then went to Nate Polowitzky's foreign desk before being posted to Buenos Aires in '81.

His first novel, *Champions of the World* (Simon&Schuster, 1988) drew heavily on his work reporting on the Argentine Dirty War, *los desaparecidos*, and the Falklands War. Bill Montalbano of the LA Times called it

“history breathed to life with chilling precision and insight.”

In the late '90s and aughts he headed the Miami-based English Language Service of Spain's national news agency EFE, complementing desk work there with long-form contribution to the Miami New Times and Revista Gatopardo.

Since 2006 he has lived in Fano, on Italy's central Adriatic coast, with his Italian wife Nicoletta. They met and married in El Salvador, and have four thoroughly bi-cultural sons.

In Italy, he and Nicoletta founded and edited *Scarpe Cotte*, an award-winning magazine of short stories, poetry and illustration by middle-school-aged kids. While teaching writing and English part-time, he continued to publish non-fiction and fiction in various venues, including *The Delacorte Review*, *Atticus Review* and *i-Italy*.

His second novel, *April and the Gardener*, grew out of his years covering civil wars in El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua. It has just been published by Stacked Stone Books.



Connecting mailbox

Walter Mears stood up for staff

[Estes Thompson](#) - Walter Mears was and always will be my hero. He stood up for staff and encouraged us. Once, when something happened in North Carolina, the Raleigh bureau had the story out fast and accurately. UPI claimed we were wrong. We were questioned about it by the General Desk. Walter said, 'Don't worry. (UPI) couldn't match it so they tried to piss on it.' Made my day. I've have taken a beating for the man.

-0-

Putin's War Against Humanity

(Written and shared by colleague [Wendy Davis Beard](#))

Her Pregnancy was elastic, until it wasn't.
her egg grew and grew as she planned with her partner
for the future they'd share in Kyiv
Resting his hand on her belly feeling their baby kick

Until her waters broke, the bombs dropped,
her partner left for the front line-
Yellow tape encircling his camouflage sleeve-
signifying civilian soldier,
will not unsure his safety.
Her hand no longer held...By anyone.
The hospital around her in ruins,
No home to return to or safe corridor to escape.
Hoping for imminent evacuation,
But now Without bonnie blue booties
"Granny" knitted just weeks ago,

Left behind in rush to deliver.

-0-

Don't say 'Don't Say Gay'

[Mark Mittelstadt](#) - I am puzzled by AP's repeated use of "Don't Say Gay" to describe the parental rights bill passed by the Florida legislature and now being considered in other states.

Florida's Parental Rights in Education bill ostensibly bars sexual instruction to school children from pre-kindergarten through grade 3, generally 4- to 8-year olds. Critics in the LGBTQ community and elsewhere loudly decried it as "Don't Say Gay."

Reasonable people can disagree whether or not it is appropriate to use the classroom to talk to young school children about sexual orientation and gender identity. That's not an appropriate debate for an AP retiree newsletter, it seems to me.

The question is whether AP should adopt the terminology of one side to label controversial legislation in its headlines and stories. If the argument is that is what opponents have called it, then the door is opened to abusively labeling almost any controversial issue. Did AP repeatedly call tax revisions approved during President Trump's tenure "tax cuts for the rich?"

If the response in the Florida case is that virtually every other news outlet called it "Don't Say Gay," I would wonder what happened to a news cooperative that prided itself on leading on accuracy, integrity and reporting stories fairly and without favor?

-0-

Cousin named Fnu Lnu

[Adolphe Bernotas](#) - A cousin of ETAOIN SHRDLU, well-known to reporters especially those covering police departments, is Fnu Lnu.

Fnu Lnu makes news frequently, often in items written by newbie reporters.

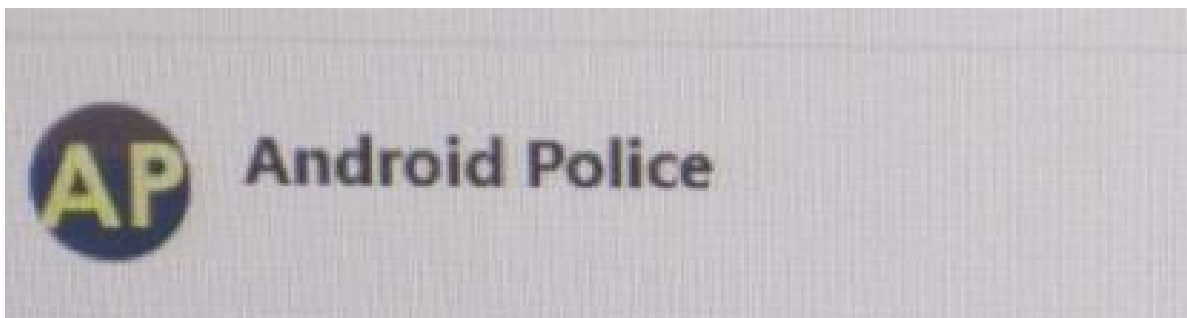
Fnu Lnu is the coptalk abbreviation for "First name unknown (or unavailable); Last name unknown."

I bet a Google search for Fnu Lnu will bring up this miscreant's name, including items with the AP logo.

As for ETAOIN SHRDLU, I knew him well. He appeared in one of the Wire Service Guild-Associated Press contracts of the early 1970s.

-0-

AP logo police alert



[Holly Kurtz](#) - I came across this reference to "AP." It's the Android Police, a newsletter with tips and tech updates about Android smartphones and tablets!

-0-

Ole Rocking Chair Thoughts

[Gene Herrick](#) - The weather in spring is so changing that one would think the person issuing daily reports might be having hangovers. It's like having a menu, and the prognosticator just points a finger on a list of possibilities.

My Ole Rockin' chair just goes inside, and then outside. It is confusing for this old dude.

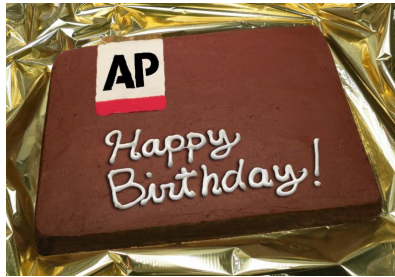
That was my first thought. The second is about the condition of the world. What is happening? My thinking says we have a few nuts running things. In my mind, war is not something one perpetrates, I feel that dictators, and those controlling the strings of leadership in the world, be required to be in the front lines during a shootin' war, and feel the pain of a bullet, or the fear of incoming enemy shells before becoming the big shot. War has a way of changing one's thinking.

I decided, some time ago, that I would not like to be a leader of a country, especially when I had to deal with the second tier of leadership, which, it seems, has the power to argue, fight, debate, and mess up the original proposal. I'll bet the founding fathers, off on their respective clouds, are turning over and over. I often wonder if that is why we have such changing weather.

Another irritant in life is when the garbage man doesn't come on the assigned day. It keeps buggin' me. Course, I wouldn't want the job. Also, when the next-door neighbor doesn't rake the leaves in his yard, and they end up in mine. We have a friendly back and forth on this matter. However, at my age, I need to seek out camaraderie.

My rockin' chair is starting to squeak, so I better conclude this and get the oil can.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Kernan Turner](#)

On Sunday to...

[Steve Hurst](#)

[Sandy Johnson](#)

[Estes Thompson](#)

[Nancy Trott](#)

Stories of interest

His reporting on the Kennedy assassination made him a legend. Then a press group looked into his past. (Washington Post)



Merriman Smith filing a report from the White House. (Bettmann/Getty Images)

By Paul Farhi

Merriman Smith was a distinguished White House correspondent for decades, but he cemented his place in journalism history on a bright afternoon in 1963.

Traveling in the press-pool car as President John F. Kennedy's motorcade wound through Dallas that day, Smith heard the crackle of gunfire. He reacted instinctively, grabbing the car's "radiotelephone" before other reporters to file a brief but world-shaking scoop to his editors: "Three shots fired at President Kennedy's motorcade today in downtown Dallas."

He went on to report from a hospital where he saw the president slumped in the rear of his limousine, "a dark stain spreading down the right side of [his] dark gray suit."

Smith's final dispatch from the day of Kennedy's assassination was a masterpiece of deadline writing, earning him a Pulitzer Prize in 1964. He went on to win a Presidential Medal of Freedom several years later. And for the past 50 years, the White House Correspondents' Association has honored print and broadcast reporters with an award that bears his name. Until now.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Myron Belkind.

-0-

Lee Enterprises directors reelected despite hedge fund fight (AP)

By JOSH FUNK and MARGERY A. BECK

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Three directors at newspaper publisher Lee Enterprises were reelected Thursday over the objections of a hedge fund that has been trying to buy the company since last fall.

Lee said its chairman, CEO and lead independent director were all reelected as expected at the Davenport, Iowa-based company's annual meeting, with each receiving support from more than 70% of the votes cast. Alden Global Capital had urged shareholders to vote against Chairman Mary Junck and longtime director Herbert Moloney after a judge blocked its effort to nominate its own directors, but the rules of the election had made “no” votes symbolic.

Alden, which is already one of the largest newspaper owners in the country, probably won't abandon its effort to buy Lee after this latest setback, but it wasn't immediately clear what the New York-based hedge fund might try next. Alden did not immediately comment on Thursday's vote, and an Alden spokeswoman did not immediately reply to phone and email messages from The Associated Press.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

-0-

Millions of dollars for news, shrouded in mysterious deals (Judith Neilson Institute)

More than a dozen years ago, the US Federal Trade Commission sponsored an ominously titled workshop, “How Will Journalism Survive the Internet Age?” The gathering included a number of dignitaries, but the marquee name was one familiar around the world: Rupert Murdoch.

He used the stage to launch a fusillade against his digital competitors: “Our customers are smart enough to know that you don’t get something for nothing. That goes for some of our friends online, too. And yet there are those who think they have a right to take our news content and use it for their own purposes without contributing a penny to its production.”

It took Murdoch more than a decade, but he finally got his way with some of his online “friends” — not in the US, where he had become a citizen, but in his native Australia. Media companies, including Murdoch’s News Corp, helped convince the Australian parliament to pass a law that is now compelling Facebook and Google to pay substantial sums — sometimes in the tens of millions of dollars — to news organisations whose headlines frequently appear on platforms’ pages.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Lindel Hutson.

-0-

Opinion: Kyiv vs. Kiev, Zelensky vs. Zelenskyy, and the immense meaning of ‘the’ (Washington Post)

By Benjamin Dreyer

Benjamin Dreyer is Random House’s executive managing editor and copy chief and the author of “Dreyer’s English: An Utterly Correct Guide to Clarity and Style.”

“Ukraine, not ‘the Ukraine,’ ” I’d jotted down in my to-do notebook a couple of weeks ago. “Kiev/Kyiv.” “Zelensky(y).”

This column should have been a slam-dunk: a little copyeditorial erudition and explication, a few historical quotes for context and support, perhaps a digression into Bombay and Mumbai, or Burma and Myanmar, maybe a joke or two — how about a sly reference to the 1953 novelty pop hit “Istanbul (Not Constantinople)” (“If you’ve a date in Constantinople / She’ll be waiting in Istanbul.”)

It should have been simple to say: Things (and people) change, including the names of things (and people), and innocuous-looking shifts in nomenclature can carry significant content, and one does well to keep up.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Linda Deutsch.

-0-

RPD Series: Rex Rust’s ‘Crazy Shot’ (Relevance Project)



A “crazy shot” of the Rust family, shared by Connecting colleague Jon Rust, who notes, “Rex is on right climbing the rock pillar.”

Tom Silvestri

The funeral of Rex Rust, a friend of many, is today (Jan. 17). He died Jan. 6 at age 52. Yes, too young.

Rex was co-president of Missouri-based Rust Communications, a second-generation media company operating primarily in the Midwest that owns more than 40 newspapers and has interests in radio stations, a digital agency and commercial real estate. Like many publishers, corporate representatives and newspaper vendors, I ran into Rex at industry conferences and board meetings.

To know Rex was to have a lifelong colleague and plenty of lessons on how to compete with gusto, appreciation for the game, and respect for colleagues. I can never remember a moment where I saw Rex down in the dumps or negative. That’s what made his battle with cancer over the last year a profile in courage.

In his obituary, there’s an unusual Relevant Point that can apply to newspapers in their transformations. Call it the Rex Rule: Always considering the offbeat before making a key decision.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Matt Barba.

Today in History - March 11, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, March 11, the 70th day of 2022. There are 295 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 11, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Lend-Lease Bill, providing war supplies to countries fighting the Axis.

On this date:

In 1862, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln removed Gen. George B. McClellan as general-in-chief of the Union armies, leaving him in command of the Army of the Potomac, a post McClellan also ended up losing.

In 1918, what were believed to be the first confirmed U.S. cases of a deadly global flu pandemic were reported among U.S. Army soldiers stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas; 46 soldiers would die. (The worldwide outbreak of influenza claimed an estimated 20 to 40 million lives.)

In 1942, as Japanese forces continued to advance in the Pacific during World War II, U.S. Army Gen. Douglas MacArthur left the Philippines for Australia, where he vowed on March 20, "I shall return" — a promise he kept more than 2 1/2 years later.

In 1954, the U.S. Army charged that Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., and his subcommittee's chief counsel, Roy Cohn, had exerted pressure to obtain favored treatment for Pvt. G. David Schine, a former consultant to the subcommittee. (The confrontation culminated in the famous Senate Army-McCarthy hearings.)

In 1985, Mikhail S. Gorbachev was chosen to succeed the late Konstantin U. Chernenko as general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party.

In 1997, rock star Paul McCartney was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II.

In 2002, two columns of light soared skyward from Ground Zero in New York as a temporary memorial to the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks six months earlier.

In 2004, ten bombs exploded in quick succession across the commuter rail network in Madrid, Spain, killing 191 people in an attack linked to al-Qaida-inspired militants.

In 2006, former Serb leader Slobodan Milosevic (sloh-BOH'-dahn mee-LOH'-shuh-vich) was found dead of a heart attack in his prison cell in the Netherlands, abruptly ending his four-year U.N. war crimes trial; he was 64.

In 2010, a federal appeals court in San Francisco upheld the use of the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance and "In God We Trust" on U.S. currency.

In 2011, a magnitude-9.0 earthquake and resulting tsunami struck Japan's northeastern coast, killing nearly 20,000 people and severely damaging the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power station.

In 2020, the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic. Former Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein was sentenced in New York to 23 years in prison for rape and sexual abuse.

Ten years ago: Sixteen Afghan villagers — mostly women and children — were shot dead as they slept by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, who later pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Five years ago: Preet Bharara, an outspoken Manhattan federal prosecutor known for crusading against public corruption, announced on his personal Twitter account that he was fired after refusing a request to resign from Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who had asked that leftover appointees of former President Barack Obama leave.

One year ago: In his first prime-time address, President Joe Biden pledged to make all adults eligible for coronavirus vaccines by May. Biden signed into law a \$1.9 trillion COVID relief package that he said would help defeat the virus and nurse the economy back to health; Americans would receive up to \$1,400 in direct payments, along with extended unemployment benefits. In a poll by The Associated Press and the NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, about 1 in 5 Americans said they had lost a relative or close friend to the coronavirus. Uber and Lyft said they had teamed up to create a database of drivers ousted from their ride-hailing services for complaints about sexual assault and other crimes.

Today's Birthdays: Media mogul Rupert Murdoch is 91. Former ABC News correspondent Sam Donaldson is 88. Musician Flaco Jimenez (FLAH'-koh hee-MEH'-nez) is 83. Actor Tricia O'Neil is 77. Actor Mark Metcalf is 76. Rock singer-musician Mark Stein (Vanilla Fudge) is 75. Singer Bobby McFerrin is 72. Movie director Jerry Zucker is 72. Singer Cheryl Lynn is 71. Actor Susan Richardson is 70. Recording executive Jimmy Iovine (eye-VEEN') is 69. Singer Nina Hagen is 67. Country singer Jimmy Fortune (The Statler Brothers) is 67. Actor Elias Koteas (ee-LY'-uhs koh-TAY'-uhs) is 61. Actor-director Peter Berg is 60. Singer Mary Gauthier (GOH'-shay) is 60. Actor Jeffrey Nordling is 60. Actor Alex Kingston is 59. Actor Wallace Langham is 57. Former U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., D-Ill., is 57. Actor John Barrowman is 55. Singer Lisa Loeb is 54. Neo-soul musician Al Gamble (St. Paul & the Broken Bones) is 53. Singer Pete Drobe is 53. Actor Terrence Howard is 53. Rock musician Rami Jaffee is 53. Actor Johnny Knoxville is 51. Rock singer-musicians Benji and Joel Madden (Good Charlotte; The Madden Brothers) are 43. Actor David Anders is 41. Singer LeToya Luckett is 41.

Actor Thora Birch is 40. TV personality Melissa Rycroft is 39. Actor Rob Brown is 38. Actor Jodie Comer is 29.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking Connecting Archive in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in Kansas City.



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:

- **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.
- **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?
- **Most unusual place a story assignment took you.**

Paul Stevens
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