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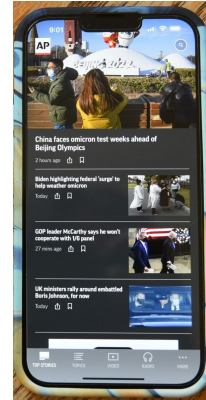
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# Connecting

April 21, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this April 21, 2022,

Congratulations go out to **Steven Sloan**, AP's deputy Washington bureau chief, who will lead a significant expansion of AP's approach to politics, democracy and elections coverage in the United States.

Washington bureau chief **Anna Johnson** announced Wednesday that Sloan, who currently oversees political news in Washington, will lead this broader effort and an expanded team as deputy Washington bureau chief for U.S. politics and elections. He managed the AP's coverage of the 2018 midterms and the 2020 presidential campaign.

Sloan joined the AP in 2018 from CNN, where he had served as director of enterprise reporting in Washington. He also launched an award-winning digital magazine at CNN that combined long-form storytelling about politics, national security and culture with photography, graphics and animation. During the 2016 campaign, Sloan was the

managing editor for content at CNN Politics, overseeing a team of breaking news and enterprise reporters and editors covering the historic election.

Before joining CNN, Sloan was the congressional editor at POLITICO and a reporter at Bloomberg News. He grew up in Atlanta and graduated from Georgia State University with a degree in political science.

The announcement leads today's issue.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## Steven Sloan named deputy Washington bureau chief

**In a memo to staff on Wednesday, Washington Bureau Chief Anna Johnson announced that U.S. Political Editor Steven Sloan is now deputy Washington bureau chief for U.S. politics and elections:**

Earlier this year, the AP announced that challenges to democracy would be a key coverage priority for 2022 and beyond. I am thrilled to announce that as part of this crucial effort, we are launching a significant expansion of AP's approach to politics, democracy and elections coverage in the United States.

Steven Sloan, who currently oversees political news in Washington, will lead this broader effort and an expanded team as deputy Washington bureau chief for U.S. politics and elections. Steven, who managed the AP's coverage of the 2018 midterms and the 2020 presidential campaign, is a dynamic newsroom leader and editor with a strong track record of overseeing exclusive and distinctive political journalism.



With Steven at the helm, AP will produce a single, cohesive and expansive U.S. political and elections news report that unifies our journalism produced in Washington with reporting from bureaus nationwide. This area of coverage will be broad and include everything from elections and campaigns to threats to democracy, voter attitudes, misinformation, how elections are administered and the impact of new voting laws. Crucially, this team will connect its reporting to people across the country, particularly to historically marginalized communities who face new hurdles to the American right to vote – and have their votes be counted.

This is a new approach for AP, but one that amplifies the AP's long-standing commitment to fact-based reporting on elections, politics and public opinion. That remains the core of our mission.

The effort will build on our existing and talented national political team, including deputy political editor Ashley Thomas along with reporters Steve Peoples, Jill Colvin, Will Weissert, Brian Slodysko, Tom Beaumont and Nick Riccardi.

The team also will include two new positions posted recently: a democracy news editor and a national political reporter.

The democracy news editor will lead our coverage of the mechanics of the American democracy and the challenges it faces, including voting rights and access, election administration, misinformation and much more. This editor will work with beat reporters in Washington and across the U.S. to identify legislation, court cases, election misinformation and political influence that impacts election outcomes.

The national politics reporter will play a large role in AP's coverage of elections, as well as report on the universe of power brokers and elected officials that operate in Washington and influence public policy and the political landscape.

We're currently interviewing for both positions and hope to have news to share on both soon.

Steven will also lead an expanded team of political reporters based across the country, building on one of AP's core strengths and advantages -- our nationwide footprint. This group will include AP staff who now cover politics in some key states, as well as new positions that we'll post in the coming weeks and months. This is a story AP will truly own by telling the American political story from communities across the country where our journalists live and work each day.

The expanded U.S. politics, democracy and elections team will build on the existing partnership with AP's strong state government team, led by Tom Verdin. In his new role, Steven also will work even more closely with the AP's stellar Decision Desk and public opinion research teams, led by Emily Swanson, coordinating and directing our coverage of elections.

And, of course, Steven and this expanded team will continue to partner with the fantastic journalists in the Washington bureau.

Please welcome me in congratulating Steven.

Click [here](#) for link to this story.

## Coming-out event for new Jill Biden book

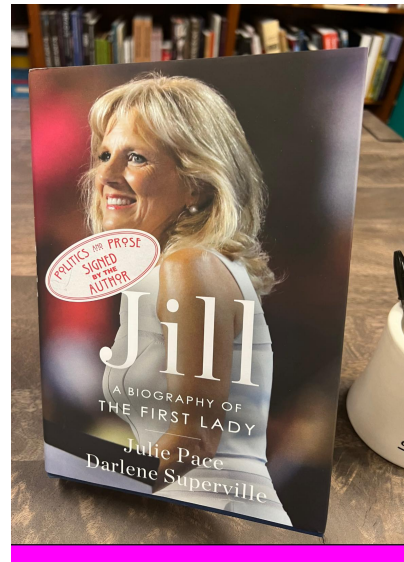




**Nedra Pickler** – It was a great event Tuesday night at Politics and Prose bookstore in Washington when the AP's **Darlene Superville** and **Julie Pace** talked about their new book, "Jill: A Biography of the First Lady."

In the photo at top, Darlene (right) and Julie (center) are interviewed about the AP book by Susan Page, Washington bureau chief for USA Today. The authors signed copies.

The Associated Press family came out in force! Everyone in the group photo above is current or former AP. From left: Josh Lederman, Nancy Benac, Scott Lindlaw, Laura Meckler, John Heilprin, Nedra Pickler, Jesse Holland, Jim Kuhnenn, Chuck Babington and Anne Gearan. Nancy is the only current AP'er in the photo – she's the White House news editor.



## A 10 year old says goodbye to his mom





@emilio\_morenatti



Vova, 10, attends the funeral of his mother, Maryna, at the cemetery in Bucha, on the outskirts of Kyiv, on Wednesday, April 20, 2022. Vova's mother died while they sheltered in a cold basement for more than a month during the Russian military's occupation. AP Photos by Emilio Morenatti.

## Connecting mailbox

### *Kudos for Doug Pizac story on imagery*

[Peggy Walsh](#) - Terrific piece (in Wednesday's Connecting) by Doug Pizac on out of context imagery. Excellent in context images still exist but are a victim of social media, bottom line mentality, cutbacks and a lack of interest or laziness in accurate portrayals.

It's hard to realize that it wasn't that many years ago when the two places I worked, AP and the New York Times, were grappling with ways to imbed credit and prevent misuse of images.

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### *Former AP HQ building gets facelift*





Photo courtesy Laurian Ghinitoiu

[Charles Hanley](#) - This, from a prominent NY real estate web magazine, Curbed New York, is an in-depth look at the transformation of AP's old corporate home on 33rd St. Should interest former denizens of the "Brutalist Eyesore"...

Click [here](#) to read.

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## *Quote of the day*

[Chris Connell](#) - You might have use for this quote of the day from Wordsmith.org:

**The belief in the possibility of a short decisive war appears to be one of the most ancient and dangerous of human illusions. -Robert Lynd, writer (20 Apr 1879-1949)**

Lynd was an Irish writer.

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## *A dog with an understanding*

[Gene Herrick](#) - Our next door neighbor, Rita and Ed Leftwich, have a dog. His name is Jax, and he is a Cavapoo breed.

Jax is cute, active, and very smart.

He intently listens to their conversations. Now it has gotten to the point that if they need to talk about the dog, and don't want him to understand, they have to spell out the words.

The neighbors are wondering how long it will take for Jax to learn spelling.

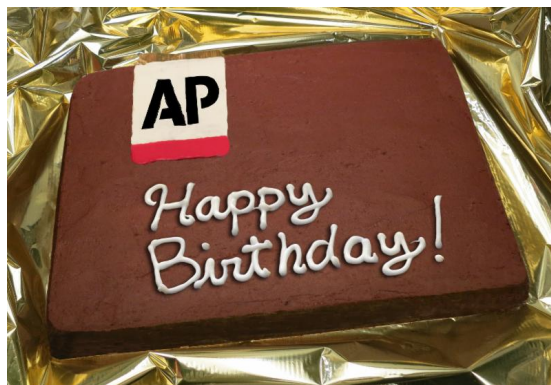
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## *Gathering of AP Kansas City alums*



Lunch in Kansas City's historic Union Station was enjoyed recently by former (and one present-day) AP Kansas City staffers. From left and around the table: Kia Breaux, Brad Martin, Steve Crowley, Jim Bagby, Dick Lipsey, Karen Ball, Glenn White, Paul Stevens, Shirley Christian, Kent Zimmerman and Doug Tucker. Kia is AP's regional director for the Midwest - the others were/are her "advisers."

# Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Marty Steinberg](#)

## Stories of interest

### *Medill Survey Shows Difficulty of Getting Some Local News Consumers to Pay*

By GREG BURNS

The diverse neighborhoods of Chicago's South and West sides make a lot of news, and a survey of their residents has found intense interest in coverage of crime and other top issues – as long as it's free.

Of the 820 people who completed the new online survey from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications, 647 said they don't pay anything for access to local news and 583 said no one should have to pay. Just 50 people said everyone should pay.

Invited to write in comments, one respondent advised media organizations to "stop hiding articles behind paywalls."

Survey respondents were mostly heavy consumers of local news, who said they stay informed by tapping an average of eight local news sources, including TV broadcasts and niche media outlets. Practically all respondents said they had used at least one newer media brand.

Read more [here](#).

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*'Threats and bullets': wave of killings highlights perils of journalism in Mexico* (Guardian)

By TOM PHILLIPS

It was a gift that would change Alfonso Margarito Martínez Esquivel's life and illuminate some of the darkest moments of Mexico's recent history: a secondhand Canon SLR bought from a photographer called Goofy.

Through its lens the Mexican photojournalist would witness his country's slide into drug-fuelled carnage – bodies strung from bridges, dumped on sidewalks, dismembered, burned – without ever losing his trademark grin.

“Margarito was a sweetie – a sweetie to everyone,” said Bibi Gutiérrez, his close friend and mentor, her voice breaking as she remembered giving Martínez one of his big breaks in journalism by buying him his first professional camera. “He was always smiling.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

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## ***PEN America to honor imprisoned Ukrainian journalist at gala*** (AP)

By HILLEL ITALIE

NEW YORK (AP) — A Ukrainian journalist imprisoned in Crimea will be honored next month at the PEN America gala. Vladyslav Yesypenko, arrested last year and sentenced recently to six years in a Russian labor camp for alleged possession and transport of explosives, is this year's recipient of the PEN/Barbey Freedom to Write Award.

Yesypenko, 53, is a freelance correspondent for Krym.Realii Project, a Crimean radio program and news source run by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. He has denied the allegations and has said he confessed after being tortured and threatened with death. He was arrested in March 2021 by Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB).

At the time, he had been working on a video report about how life has changed in Crimea since it was annexed by Russia eight years ago.

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

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## ***YouTube takes down Hong Kong leader candidate's channel*** (AP)

HONG KONG (AP) — YouTube on Wednesday took down the campaign channel of Hong Kong's sole candidate to become its next leader, John Lee, citing compliance

with U.S. sanctions imposed against the former No. 2 official.

Lee had set up a Facebook page and a YouTube channel to promote his campaign, even though he is running uncontested in the election for chief executive on May 8, in which an Election Committee of about 1,500 people will select the city's leader.

The committee is made up largely of pro-Beijing members, including legislators and representatives of different professions and industries in the city.

Lee, who resigned as chief secretary earlier this month to run in the election, had been live-streaming his meetings with media and political figures in the city on both Facebook and YouTube prior to the termination of his YouTube channel.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Conservatives' mistrust of media is rooted in the feeling journalists want to ostracize them*** (Nieman)

By ANTHONY NADLER and DORON TAUSSIG

Tune in to a conservative podcast or scroll through conservative Facebook feeds and there's a decent chance you'll encounter the terms "mainstream media," "liberal media," or just "the media," used in a tone suggesting that the audience all should know exactly who that refers to and exactly what they did wrong.

Polling shows that trust in the media among conservatives is low and dropping. Much of the American right is hostile toward the press, but there's not much research seeking to understand why, or what it means.

Sometimes, journalists and academics view research into conservative communities as disrespectful and tinged with condescension. Other times, this research is viewed as too respectful, focusing on a group whose influence on American politics is greater than its proportional share of the population.

We understand these objections. But in studying political media, we have come to believe that the alienation of conservatives from journalism presents a problem in a society where people are supposed to govern themselves using shared information. And we view that problem as worth exploring to understand it.

Read more [here](#).

## **Today in History - April 21, 2022**



## By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, April 21, the 111th day of 2022. There are 254 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On April 21, 1975, with Communist forces closing in, South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu resigned after nearly 10 years in office and fled the country.

### On this date:

In 1649, the Maryland Toleration Act, providing for freedom of worship for all Christians, was passed by the Maryland assembly.

In 1836, an army of Texans led by Sam Houston defeated the Mexicans at San Jacinto, assuring Texas independence.

In 1910, author Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, died in Redding, Connecticut, at age 74.

In 1926, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II was born in Mayfair, London; she was the first child of The Duke and Duchess of York, who later became King George VI and the Queen Mother.

In 1930, fire broke out inside the overcrowded Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus, killing 332 inmates.

In 1976, clinical trials of the swine flu vaccine began in Washington, D.C.

In 1980, Rosie Ruiz was the first woman to cross the finish line at the Boston Marathon; however, she was later exposed as a fraud. (Canadian Jacqueline Gareau was named the actual winner of the women's race.)

In 1998, astronomers announced in Washington that they had discovered possible signs of a new family of planets orbiting a star 220 light-years away, the clearest evidence to date of worlds forming beyond our solar system.

In 2015, an Egyptian criminal court sentenced ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi to 20 years in prison over the killing of protesters in 2012. (Morsi collapsed and died during trial on espionage charges in June 2019.)

In 2016, Prince, one of the most inventive and influential musicians of modern times, was found dead at his home in suburban Minneapolis; he was 57.

In 2018, Barbara Bush was remembered as the “first lady of the Greatest Generation” during a funeral in Houston attended by four former U.S. presidents and hundreds of others. Actor Verne Troyer, best known for his role as “Mini-Me” in the “Austin Powers” movies, died in Los Angeles at the age of 49; a coroner later ruled that the death was suicide by alcohol intoxication.

In 2020, researchers reported that a malaria drug that had been widely touted by President Donald Trump for treating the coronavirus showed no benefit in large study of its use in U.S. veterans hospitals.

Ten years ago: Charles W. “Chuck” Colson, 80, described as the “evil genius” of the Nixon administration who served seven months in prison for a Watergate-related conviction, then spent the next 35 years ministering to prison inmates, died in northern Virginia. Phil Humber threw the first perfect game in the majors in almost two years, leading the Chicago White Sox to a 4-0 victory over the Seattle Mariners.

Five years ago: A San Francisco power outage blamed on the massive failure of a circuit breaker that sparked a fire at a power substation stranded people in elevators and left tens of thousands in the dark.

One year ago: A Black man, Andrew Brown Jr., was shot and killed by sheriff’s deputies in North Carolina while they were serving drug-related warrants at his home in Elizabeth City. (A prosecutor cleared the deputies, saying they were justified because Brown had struck a deputy with his car while ignoring commands to show his hands and get out of the vehicle.) President Joe Biden announced new employer tax credits and other steps to encourage people who were reluctant to be inoculated to get the COVID-19 vaccine. An Indonesian submarine with 53 crew members aboard disappeared after its last reported dive off the resort island of Bali; officials later concluded that the sub sank and broke apart, killing all those on board.

Today’s Birthdays: Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II is 96. Actor-comedian-writer Elaine May is 90. Anti-death penalty activist Sister Helen Prejean is 83. Singer-musician Iggy Pop is 75. Actor Patti LuPone is 73. Actor Tony Danza is 71. Actor James Morrison is 68. Actor Andie MacDowell is 64. Rock singer Robert Smith (The Cure) is 63. Rock musician Michael Timmins (Cowboy Junkies) is 63. Actor-director John Cameron Mitchell is 59. Rapper Michael Franti (Spearhead) is 56. Actor Leslie Silva is 54. Actor Toby Stephens is 53. Rock singer-musician Glen Hansard (The Frames) is 52. Actor Rob Riggle is 52. Comedian Nicole Sullivan is 52. Football player-turned-actor Brian White is 49. Olympic gold medal pairs figure skater Jamie Sale (sah-LAY’) is 45. Rock musician Dave Brenner (Theory of a Deadman) is 44. Actor James McAvoy is 43. Former NFL quarterback Tony Romo is 42. Actor Terrence J is 40. Actor Gugu Mbatha-Raw is 39. Actor Christoph Sanders is 34. Actor Frank Dillane is 31. Rock singer Sydney Sierota (Echosmith) is 25.

# 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**  
Editor, Connecting newsletter



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