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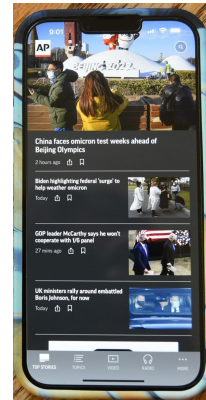
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# Connecting

April 28, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this April 28, 2022,

Join me in extending congratulations to our colleague [Kathy Gannon](#), who will receive the Columbia Journalism Award in honor of her distinguished career with The Associated Press of nearly 35 years.

Gannon, who has covered the region for the AP as a correspondent and bureau chief since 1988, will retire May 15.

Today's issue also includes:

A new chapter added to the AP Stylebook on inclusive story telling...

Fond memories of **Gary Clark** as he battles a grave illness...

And more memories of Indiana newspaperman **Jack Ronald**...

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## Veteran Correspondent and AP News Director Kathy Gannon to receive Columbia Journalism Award

### Columbia Journalism School News Release

Kathy Gannon, the Associated Press news director for Pakistan and Afghanistan, will receive the Columbia Journalism Award for a distinguished career as an international correspondent. Voted on by the faculty “for singular journalistic performance in the public interest,” the award is presented annually to someone of exceptional accomplishment and service to journalism.

“The breadth and depth of Kathy Gannon’s reporting and her unwavering courage and commitment during incredibly challenging moments spanning more than three decades have shaped an extraordinary record for journalists and historians to study for generations to come,” said Dean and Henry R. Luce Professor of Journalism Steve Coll.



The Columbia Journalism Award recipient generally addresses the graduating class each year. Gannon, who is based overseas in Pakistan, will address the Class of 2022 via video.

Gannon has covered the region for the AP as a correspondent and bureau chief since 1988, a period that spans the withdrawal of Russian soldiers from Afghanistan, the assassination of Benazir Bhutto, the bitter Afghan civil war between Islamic factions and the rise and fall of the Taliban. Gannon was the only Western journalist allowed in Kabul by the Taliban in the weeks preceding the 2001 U.S.-British offensive in Afghanistan.

In addition to her coverage of South Central Asia, she has covered the Middle East, including the 2006 Israeli war against Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, and war in northern Iraq.

Read more [here](#).

# Inclusive storytelling chapter added to AP Stylebook

By Nicole Meir

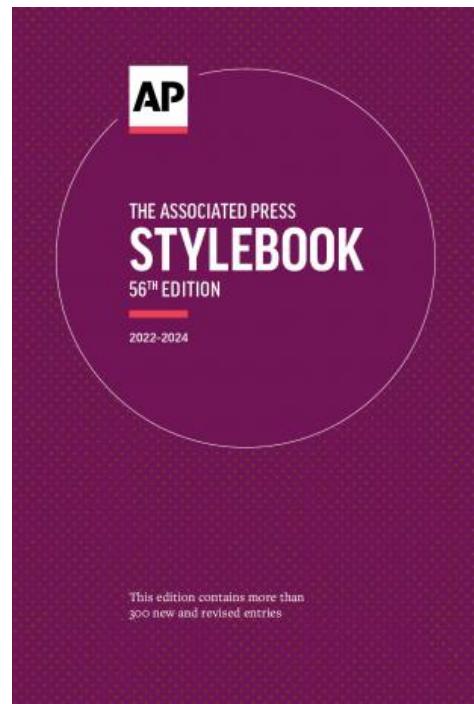
During a panel at the ACES: The Society for Editing national conference in San Antonio, Texas, on Saturday, Stylebook editor Paula Froke announced that the latest edition of AP Stylebook will include a new chapter on inclusive storytelling.

The guidance is immediately available to AP Stylebook Online subscribers and will be included in the new print edition of the Stylebook, set to be published on June 1.

The new inclusive storytelling chapter emphasizes the importance of inclusive reporting and editing in ensuring accuracy and fairness and offers guidance to recognize and overcome unconscious biases; use thoughtful and precise language; include necessary context and background; avoid tokenism; and make content accessible.

Many new and revised Stylebook entries contain guidance relevant to inclusive storytelling, with updates and expansions covering disabilities; race-related coverage; gender, sex and sexual orientation; pronouns; and religion. Some of the entries presented at the meeting include:

Read more [here](#).



## With thanks, appreciation to Gary Clark



**At Gary Clark's AP retirement party in 2009. From left: Brent Kallestad, Tallahassee correspondent under Gary; Michael Giarrusso, Gary's news editor in Atlanta, and Dan Sewell, Matt Bokor and Will Lester, his news editors in Miami.**

**Dan Sewell** - The news about Gary Clark is saddening, but it's also a good time to offer him thanks and appreciation.

I've been fortunate that most of my AP bosses starting with Andy Lippman in Cincinnati became lifelong friends. Gary was my COB both in Miami (twice) and Atlanta, and we had a lot of major national news in both places.

When he first got to Miami, he inherited me as news editor from Tom Brettingen. When Gary called me into his office the first time, his first words were: "I want to win."

And that we usually did, against tough competition.

We also had many good times, and Gary was quick with the quip. Like when I told him about a news item that the ball Red Sox 1Bman Bill Buckner let past him in the 1986 World Series for a Mets victory was being auctioned.

"I like to buy it," Gary said, "and throw it into the St. Charles River."

More importantly, Gary was a steadfast friend who helped me get through a tough personal period in my life. In fact, he, Fay and their children Chad, Shannon and Jason all supported me, helping me maintain my career and get my life back on track.

Thanks, Gary.

Unfortunately, the Reds will make sure again this season that there won't be a '75 World Series rematch with your BoSox.

Peace and love to you and your family.

## Your memories of Jack Ronald

[Diane Palguta](#) - Jack was special. Indiana journalism has always been excellent thanks to efforts of people like Jack, Craig Klugman, Jack Powers and the many others who told the stories of their Hoosier communities.

Not a good week. One of my good friends, Joe Worley, executive editor of the Tulsa World, also has died. Way too early.

And Gary Clark, former COB in Atlanta and elsewhere, has stage 4 throat cancer.

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[Lindel Hutson](#) - Jack Ronald was one of the people who made Indiana journalism special.

He cared deeply about Portland and the people and that showed in the pages of the Courier Review. He always impressed me as being passionate about reporting the truth and treating people and their stories fairly.

As others have said, he was quick to point out inadequacies, and just as quick with community praise when it was deserving.

He was president of APME in the early '80s when I was news editor in Indianapolis, and his advice and guidance were appreciated.

His legacy continues in Portland and in Indiana. And also in Europe where he took his talents to tutor journalists in the former Soviet republics. In these days of turmoil, I'm sure those European journalists appreciate the help Jack provided.

Jack sent me a very nice, flattering note a few months ago after he and his family visited my daughter Sarah's restaurant in Boston. He didn't have to do that. But that was Jack Ronald.

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[Douglas Richardson](#) - Jack was the true believer in community journalism, and one of its great practitioners. I got to know him when our dear friend Fran and I worked with his cousin, Jim Ronald, at the New Castle Courier Times. I admired Jack for his commitment to that kinda funky community. There wasn't a lot going on in that town. Believe me. But Jack made his paper relevant, every day.

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[Keith Robinson](#) - I read with sadness in Connecting about the death of Jack Ronald, who was publisher and editor of The Commercial-Review of Portland, Indiana.

I always had a tremendous amount of respect for him while I was Indianapolis COB, for he was a small-town publisher with literally a world of experience in — and dedication to - international affairs, especially in his work helping to train newspaper personnel in former Soviet Union countries on how to run a newspaper based on the principles of freedom of the press (even though much of the press there wasn't totally free). He would tell me how he often was followed around by local authorities who tracked his whereabouts with suspicion.

At some point in the late 2000s during such a mission trip to one of the countries, he was denied entry at the airport after flying halfway around the world to get there for his work. He said the authorities turned him away because of his "record." He took it in stride, telling me when he got home, he considered that "a badge of honor."

As a side note, I understand that he recited poetry at local events as one of his passions.

## Connecting mailbox

### *The state of the news industry*

[Robert Wielaard](#) - Like Marty Steinberg, I also applaud Kevin Noblet's comments on the state of the news business. To grow AP journalism requires action. By AP!

AP claims "more than half the world's population" sees its journalism every day. That's 3.5 billion people, give or take a few hundred million! Can AP not squeeze a few bucks from, say, a billion and a half of them? In Europe, I pay \$25/m (73 cents a day!) for 2 online news services: the NYT and a quality Dutch daily. My neighbor pays \$1,05 a day for an online Belgian newspaper.

Why is AP free? Why not charge me? Giving stuff away is bad business. But if AP charges for news, that news must be relevant to the audience. The AP app I see in Europe is far from that. Example: A headline like Justices to hear Oklahoma appeal in tribal jurisdiction case fascinates few Europeans.

Other nations trust their news media more: Why?

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### *Decline of public trust in U.S. news media – why?*

[Ed McCullough](#) - The interesting part about the decline of public trust in U.S. news media is "why." Similar headwinds - collapse of the subscription and advertising revenue model, shrinking newsrooms, high use of social media, the onslaught of "fake" news, etc. - confront news media elsewhere yet their audiences trust them more.

Data from the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism digital report for 2021 (reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk), the 10th in a series, show that in 46 markets from six continents, trust in news grew last year by 6% to 44% while in the U.S. it remained flat at 29%, "the lowest level in our survey." Finland registered highest at 65%.

A dip in general news interest may have been bound to happen following the rancorous 2020 presidential election and the Coronavirus pandemic. But the very low level of trust seems related to political partisanship - and news values wherein facts and editorial opinion mix freely whereas before opinion generally was labeled as such and kept separate.

More people these days get their news from TV than newspapers and, according to the Reuters findings, the main cable news channels "have some of the highest levels of distrust." Why? Look at the very different ways that "mainstream" media covered the same news events: illegal immigration at the southern border; the Jan. 2021 Capitol riot and the 2020 "peaceful" demonstrations that burned down city centers; the Senate debates on the Kavanaugh, Coney Barrett and Jackson nominations; former President Trump's two impeachments and acquittals.

"The majority of our respondents (74%) say they still prefer news that reflects a range of views and lets them decide what to think," the report summary states. "Most also think that news outlets should try to be neutral on every issue (66%).... The U.S. is a special case."

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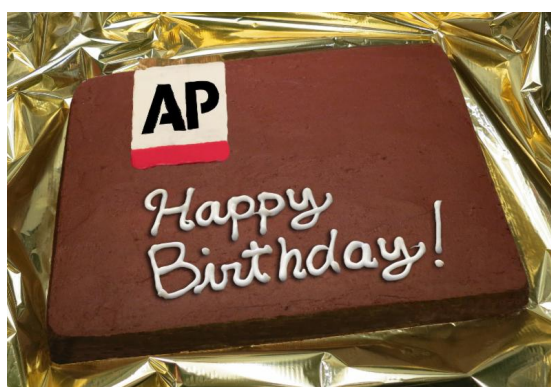
***Birthday, 1995***



[Dan Sewell](#) - Thanks for all the birthday wishes. One of my most unusual was my 40th, 1995 in the Oklahoma City bureau in the aftermath of the deadly Federal Building bombing. National Writer Mitchell Landsberg looks on here as I blow out candles.

Everyone grabbed a slice and got back to work!

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Amanda Barnett](#)

[Hal Buell](#)

[Elijah Decious](#)



## Betsy Kraft

# Stories of interest

## ***A fight over coronavirus safety at journalists' gala event*** (Washington Post)

By Dan Diamond and Paul Farhi

More than 2,000 journalists, celebrities and politicians, including President Biden, are set to descend on the White House Correspondents' Association dinner this weekend in what is shaping up to be a major test of whether large gatherings can be safely held at this stage of the pandemic.

Organizers say they are committed to holding an event that significantly reduces the risk of coronavirus infections, pointing to vaccine and testing requirements that were strengthened after a dinner hosted by Washington's Gridiron Club this month was linked to at least 85 infections that sickened Cabinet members, reporters and other guests.

Yet some White House officials and experts worry that those measures are insufficient and that this weekend's events may become another high-profile superspreader event, said three administration officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the issue. Behind the scenes, one prominent coronavirus expert is scrapping with party organizers hesitant to install devices that disinfect the air using ultraviolet light because of concerns the devices might interfere with the program.

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

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## ***Outgoing Times editor to lead fellowship for local probes*** (AP)

NEW YORK (AP) — Dean Baquet, outgoing executive editor of The New York Times, will lead a fellowship program focusing on local investigative journalism projects at the Times.

Baquet and a group of veteran investigative editors will guide journalists producing the efforts, which The Times will let news organizations in the affected areas co-publish or broadcast at no cost, the newspaper said on Tuesday.

Details on how many journalism fellows will be part of the program have yet to be announced.

The Times said last week that Baquet will be stepping down in June as he has reached 65, the age at which the newspaper's leadership tenure traditionally ends. He'll be replaced by his top deputy, Joseph Kahn.

Read more [here](#).

Click [here](#) for New York Times story. Shared by Linda Deutsch.

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## ***EU proposes law to stop abusive lawsuits against journalists*** (AP)

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union's executive arm said Wednesday that it wants to see the EU adopt a law to protect journalists and civil rights activists from lawsuits aimed at censoring them.

The European Commission proposed safeguards to curb SLAPPS, or strategic lawsuits against public participation. It described such litigation as a "serious threat to democracy and fundamental rights, such as freedom of expression and information."

Daphne Caruana Galizia, a Maltese investigative journalist who was killed in a 2017 car bombing, faced more than 40 lawsuits when she was killed, the commission said.

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

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## ***Belarus journalist group wins UNESCO's press freedom award*** (AP)

By YURAS KARMANAU

LVIV, Ukraine (AP) — Belarus' top independent journalists' organization has been awarded a UNESCO press freedom award.

The Belarusian Association of Journalists has been named as the laureate of the 2022 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize — a \$25,000 award for "outstanding contributions to the defense or promotion of press freedom especially in the face of danger," UNESCO announced Wednesday.

"For twenty-five years, the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Prize has been calling the world's attention to the bravery of journalists around the world who sacrifice so much in the pursuit of truth and accountability. Once again, we are inspired by their example and

reminded of the importance of ensuring the right of journalists everywhere to report freely and safely," Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO's director-general, said in the statement.

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

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## ***The LA sheriff now says no charges for the reporter who wrote about a cover-up*** (NPR)

By VANESSA ROMO

The Los Angeles County sheriff now says the department is not pursuing criminal charges against a journalist at the Los Angeles Times over a report about the attempted cover-up of an inmate abuse incident by sheriff's deputies.

The announcement is an apparent change of course after a striking Tuesday news conference in which Sheriff Alex Villanueva, asked directly about Times reporter Alene Tchekmedyan, responded that "all parties" were subject to investigation.

On Tuesday night, the sheriff released a statement on Twitter claiming that "at no time today did I state an LA Times reporter was a suspect in a criminal investigation.

"We have no interest in pursuing, nor are we pursuing, criminal charges against any reporters," his statement said. "We will conduct a thorough investigation regarding the unlawful disclosure of evidence and documentation in an active criminal case. The multiple active investigations stemming from this incident will be shared and monitored by an outside law enforcement entity."

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

## **The Final Word**

**Pearls Before Swine** by Stephan Pastis



Shared by Len Iwanski, Adolphe Bernotas, Paul Albright.

# Today in History - April 28, 2022



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Thursday, April 28, the 118th day of 2022. There are 247 days left in the year.

## Today's Highlight in History:

On April 28, 1994, former CIA official Aldrich Ames, who had passed U.S. secrets to the Soviet Union and then Russia, pleaded guilty to espionage and tax evasion, and was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

## On this date:

In 1788, Maryland became the seventh state to ratify the Constitution of the United States.

In 1945, Italian dictator Benito Mussolini and his mistress, Clara Petacci, were executed by Italian partisans as they attempted to flee the country.

In 1947, a six-man expedition set out from Peru aboard a balsa wood raft named the Kon-Tiki on a 101-day journey across the Pacific Ocean to the Polynesian Islands.

In 1952, war with Japan officially ended as a treaty signed in San Francisco the year before took effect. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower resigned as Supreme Allied commander in Europe; he was succeeded by Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered U.S. Marines to the Dominican Republic to protect American citizens and interests in the face of a civil war.

In 1967, heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali was stripped of his title after he refused to be inducted into the armed forces.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter accepted the resignation of Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance, who had opposed the failed rescue mission aimed at freeing American hostages in Iran. (Vance was succeeded by Edmund Muskie.)

In 1986, the Soviet Union informed the world of the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl.

In 1990, the musical "A Chorus Line" closed after 6,137 performances on Broadway.

In 2001, a Russian rocket lifted off from Central Asia bearing the first space tourist, California businessman Dennis Tito, and two cosmonauts on a journey to the international space station.

In 2011, convicted sex offender Phillip Garrido and his wife, Nancy, pleaded guilty to kidnapping and raping a California girl, Jaycee Dugard, who was abducted in 1991 at the age of 11 and rescued 18 years later. (Phillip Garrido was sentenced to 431 years to life in prison; Nancy Garrido was sentenced to 36 years to life in prison.)

In 2015, urging Americans to "do some soul-searching," President Barack Obama expressed deep frustration over recurring Black deaths at the hands of police, rioters who responded with senseless violence and a society that would only "feign concern" without addressing the root causes.

Ten years ago: Syria derided United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as biased and called his comments "outrageous" after he blamed the regime for widespread cease-fire violations.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump reaffirmed his support for gun rights, telling attendees of a National Rifle Association convention in Atlanta that "the eight-year assault on your Second Amendment freedoms has come to a crashing end."

One year ago: In his first address to Congress, President Joe Biden called for an expansion of federal programs to drive the economy past the pandemic and broadly extend the social safety net on a scale not seen in decades. Federal agents raided the New York home and office of Rudy Giuliani, former President Donald Trump's personal lawyer; they seized computers and cellphones. The Justice Department brought federal hate crimes charges in the death of Ahmaud Arbery, a Black man who was pursued and then killed by white men who spotted him running in their Georgia neighborhood. (Three white men were found guilty of federal hate crimes after being convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison in Arbery's shooting death.) Apollo 11 astronaut Michael Collins, who orbited the moon alone while Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin made their first steps on the lunar surface, died of cancer in Florida; he was 90.

Today's Birthdays: Former Secretary of State James A. Baker III is 92. Actor-singer Ann-Margret is 81. Actor Paul Guilfoyle is 73. Former "Tonight Show" host Jay Leno is 72. Rock musician Chuck Leavell is 70. Actor Mary McDonnell is 70. Rock singer-musician Kim Gordon (Sonic Youth) is 69. Actor Nancy Lee Grahn is 66. Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan is 62. Rapper Too Short is 56. Actor Bridget Moynahan is 51. Actor Chris Young is 51. Rapper Big Gipp is 50. Actor Jorge Garcia is 49. Actor Elisabeth Rohm is 49. Actor Penelope Cruz is 48. Actor Nate Richert is 44. TV personalities Drew and Jonathan Scott are 44. Actor Jessica Alba is 41. Actor Harry Shum Jr. is 40. Actor Jenna Ushkowitz is 36. Actor Aleisha Allen is 31.

# 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.

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