

Green, Scott

From: Paul and Linda Stevens <stevenspl@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2013 7:50 AM
To: 'Paul and Linda Stevens'
Subject: CONNECTING: North Korea celebration; Inside North Korea; Death of press conference; Learn data skills; Enough of royal baby?; Sympathy for Walmark flack; Lady Gaga photos; Beat of the Week

Colleagues,

Here are some items of interest.

Paul

-0-

AP's David Guttenfelter at North Korea's celebration (Shared by Bob Daugherty)

http://m.huffpost.com/us/entry/3639538?utm_hp_ref=tw

AND

AP Photographers Upload First Instagram Videos from Inside North Korea

http://petapixel.com/2013/07/24/ap-photographers-upload-first-instagram-videos-from-inside-north-korea/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+PetaPixel+%28PetaPixel%29

-0-

Death of a press conference (Daugherty)

<http://newsblogs.chicagotribune.com/assignment-chicago/2013/07/death-of-a-press-conference.html#.UfAqNTS3H7E.email>

-0-

Buttry to editors: lead your staff in learning data skills (Shared by Mark Mittelstadt)

<http://stevebuttry.wordpress.com/2013/07/24/advice-for-editors-lead-your-staff-in-learning-data-skills/>

-0-

Had enough of royal baby coverage? The Guardian has a solution... (Daugherty)

<http://www.charlesapple.com/2013/07/had-enough-of-royal-baby-coverage-the-guardian-has-a-solution/>

-0-

Sympathy for the Walmart flack (Daugherty)

http://www.cjr.org/the_audit/walmarts_jobs_push.php

-0-

Judge Instructs Terry Richardson to Hand Over 140,000 Photos of Lady Gaga

<http://petapixel.com/2013/07/11/judge-instructs-terry-richardson-to-hand-over-140000-photos-of-lady-gaga/#more-117252>

-0-

Beat of the Week (Shared by Valerie Komor)

Colleagues,

A reporting 101 guide to three steps to break a story might go like this: Keep track of the timetable. At the right moment, go directly to the source. Then remember that you will never get the answer if you are afraid to ask the question.

For Pittsburgh correspondent Kevin Begos these three steps paid off with the Beat of the Week for his exclusive, on-the-record report that preliminary results of a landmark federal study showed no evidence that chemicals from the natural gas drilling process known as fracking had contaminated drinking water.

Pittsburgh sits atop the sprawling Allegheny plateau. Under that plateau you will find Marcellus shale which famously gives up its oil and gas to fracking. One of the biggest issues around fracking is whether the procedure, which involves pumping water and other chemicals to pressure out the oil and gas, is environmentally safe.

Begos, an experienced science writer, knows an important beat when he sees one. He has become a leader in the coverage of fracking. His reporting is followed quite closely by both sides of the fracking debate and is cited in mainstream media and insider blogs.

As part of his beat management, Begos keeps a list of environmental and other studies that are in progress. He knew the Department of Energy fracking study had passed its one-year time period. But he didn't want to call the DOE's public affairs office, lest it put a lid on the findings, so he went right to the lead scientist, geologist Richard Hammack, whom he had interviewed a year before.

Begos began with technical questions, which the scientist seemed to enjoy, and then moved to the big question: Why not give him the preliminary results now, ahead of their publication next month?

After all, you never know unless you ask.. Begos did ask and, perhaps surprisingly, Hammack agreed.

The yearlong study, by the National Energy Technology Laboratory, monitored fracking fluids that were injected deep underground in wells in western Pennsylvania. By tagging the fracking fluid with "unique markers," scientists could locate them if they migrated into groundwater. They didn't _ "decidedly good news," as the Denver Post said.

Begos did a second interview to check all the facts, and only then did Hammack say something about letting the PR people know.

The scientist never showed any reluctance to share the findings with Begos, but there was also no indication that he talked to anyone else after the AP story hit the wire. Others later quoted the DOE spokesman but did not have the study details that Begos reported.

The story was Yahoo's most popular the next day. It elicited thousands of Facebook shares and Twitter commentary through the following weekend, and led to several editorials mentioning the AP.

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

For a model of beat reporting that led to breaking a big development in the fracking story, Begos wins this week's \$500 prize.

Others whose work impressed the judges:

_ Corey Williams, newsman, Detroit, for his first-person account of what the city's bankruptcy meant to someone from Detroit. Williams covered the news of the bankruptcy filing and then wrote his first-person story in 90 minutes. The piece was the most-shared story on AP Mobile.

<http://bit.ly/1370SC5>

_ Tom LoBianco, Statehouse correspondent, Indianapolis, for reporting on efforts by former Gov. Mitch Daniels and his education advisers to eliminate liberal "propaganda" from Indiana classrooms. Daniels is now president of Purdue University.

<http://bit.ly/1bOYd6M>

_ David Dishneau, correspondent, Mid-Atlantic/Hagerstown, Md., for reporting first that an aide to a disabled man tried to tell police how to deal with him. They disregarded her advice and put him under arrest. The man, who had Down syndrome, later died in custody.

<http://bit.ly/137W7lu>

_ Judy Lin, newswoman, Sacramento, Calif., for an AP Exclusive detailing how staff at California's two pension funds racked up tens of thousands of dollars in travel expenses despite an appeal from Gov. Jerry Brown to eliminate non-essential travel.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2013/07/18/5575158/ap-exclusive-pension-funds-keep.html>

_ David Klepper, newsman, Providence, R.I., for a scoop that documented the breadth of problems at the troubled Rhode Island Economic Development Corp., the quasi-governmental agency that granted an ill-fated \$75 million state loan guarantee to a video game company owned by former Boston Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling.

<http://www.boston.com/news/local/rhode-island/2013/07/18/audit-energy-fund-overpaid-mismanaged-grants/mKQhLu0B5HxOYXzJ3TCcEJ/story.html>

_ Brian Murphy, bureau chief; Dalton Bennett, videojournalist, and Kamran Jebreili, photographer, Dubai, for tracking down Marte Deborah Dalelv, who had reported an alleged rape in Dubai but ended up sentenced to 16 months in prison for having sex outside marriage. The AP interview with Dalelv moved 18 hours ahead of the AFP. Reuters could not match for two days. The photos were the first new images of Dalelv, and the video received huge international play.

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/witw/cheats/2013/07/19/raped-then-sentenced-to-jail.html>

_ Cassandra Vinograd and Jill Lawless, correspondents, London, for breaking the news that the queen had approved legislation legalizing gay marriage in Britain. AP was five minutes ahead of Britain's Press Association, 10 minutes ahead of BBC and 23 minutes ahead of the Times of London, which cited AP in its tweet.

<http://www.news-gazette.com/news/nationworld/2013-07-17/britain-legalizes-gay-marriage.html>

_ Ben Neary and Mead Gruver, Cheyenne, Wyo., for getting the first on-the-record confirmation that Liz Cheney, daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, would run for the Wyoming U.S. Senate seat held by Republican Mike Enzi.

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/liz-cheney-challenge-us-sen-mike-enzi-wyo>

_ Ryan Foley, correspondent, Iowa City, Iowa, for breaking the news that 3,218 Iowa government license plates are immune from red light cameras. The scoop was part of his coverage of a story that began when a state patrol trooper failed to stop the governor's speeding SUV after being alerted by another officer. The governor has called for an investigation of the plates.

<http://www.press-citizen.com/viewart/20130716/NEWS01/130716007/3-200-government-license-plates-elude-iowa-cameras>

_ Philip Elliott, education reporter, Washington, for his scoop that a deal had been reached in Congress on a plan to restore lower interest rates for college loans and link them to market rates.

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/ap-sources-deal-student-loans-would-set-cap>

Mike Oreskes