

Green, Scott

From: Paul and Linda Stevens <stevenspl@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2013 8:15 AM
To: 'Paul and Linda Stevens'
Subject: CONNECTING: Lyon Op-Ed; Ferrara-Poynter; Faul -Apartheid; Body search; Syrian kidnappings; Newsday hire; Bloomberg-Market Moving; Pot editor; Onion picks; Beat of Week; Best of States

Colleagues,

Some AP names in the news:

Santiago Lyon: "Obama's Orwellian Image Control," an op-ed piece in The New York Times written by Lyon, AP vice president and director of photography, appeared in Thursday's print editions:

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/12/opinion/obamas-orwellian-image-control.html?ref=opinion&_r=0

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Lou Ferrera: Ferrara, AP vice president and Managing Editor - Content Verticals & Digital Products, Sports Business Entertainment, was one of six new members named to Poynter's National Advisory Board:

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/12/10/3810200/poynter-names-six-new-members.html>

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Michelle Faul, AP's Chief Africa Correspondent, wrote this story in which she recalled life under apartheid in South Africa:

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/recalling-life-under-apartheid-south-africa>

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Welcome to the newest member of Connecting - **Jeff Carney.**

Paul

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AP reporter: Search for Mali bodies not how a 'journalist normally operates' (Mark Mittelstadt, Paul Colford)

<http://www.poynter.org/latest-news/mediawire/233101/ap-reporter-search-for-mali-bodies-not-how-a-journalist-normally-operates/>

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How photographs told the story of the Vietnam War

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-24992606>

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News Organizations Call On Syrian Rebels to End Kidnappings

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/12/business/media/news-organizations-call-on-syrian-rebels-to-end-kidnappings.html?ref=media>

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'Newsday' hires A.P. vet for Capitol bureau

<http://www.capitalnewyork.com/article/albany/2013/12/8537205/newsday-hires-ap-vet-capitol-bureau?top-featured-2>

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Bloomberg News Pays Reporters More If Their Stories Move Markets (Scott Charton)

<http://www.businessinsider.com/bloomberg-reporters-compensation-2013-12>

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First lady not peeved, says photographer who caught the Obama selfie

<http://www.today.com/news/first-lady-not-peeved-says-photographer-who-caught-obama-selfie-2D11723566>

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Quips Follow Denver Post's Naming of Marijuana Editor, but Its Intent Is Serious

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/09/business/media/quips-follow-denver-posts-naming-of-marijuana-editor-but-its-intent-is-serious.html?_r=1&

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The Onion weighs in within tops in photojournalism 2013 (Bob Daugherty)

<http://www.theonion.com/articles/top-photojournalism-of-2013,34789/?ref=auto#4>

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Beat of the Week (Valerie Komor)

Colleagues,

The APNewsAlert hit the wire at 12:39 p.m., a full hour and 21 minutes before the city of Newtown officially published the emergency audio recordings from the morning of the Sandy Hook massacre: "911 calls from Newtown elementary school shooting show calm response by dispatchers."

In the end, it took only a few precious minutes for The Associated Press to be the first to hear and report the contents of the recordings. But it was a hard-fought, year-long public legal battle that won the AP _ and other news organizations _ the right to access the information at all.

The very day of the shootings last Dec. 14, as the East Desk and reporters on the ground worked furiously to cover the unfolding tragedy, AP investigative reporter Jack Gillum in Washington submitted an open records request that sought to answer two questions: What could we learn about the police response and the alleged assailant, Adam Lanza?

Gillum, one of AP's leading experts in open records, was exhaustive in his filing to the Newtown Police Department: He wanted all police reports in which Lanza or immediate relatives were mentioned, and any police calls in years past to both the Lanza home and Sandy Hook Elementary. He also wanted the 911 recordings originating from the Lanza home, and from the school.

News organizations routinely ask for 911 tapes in response to breaking news events, and law enforcement agencies regularly release them under state public information laws. Gillum had done a quick review of Connecticut's laws and saw nothing exempting such information. Nevertheless, as days turned to weeks, he had heard nothing back from police officials, not even an acknowledgment of his request _ as required within four days of receipt.

Gillum's mantra when it comes to filing open records requests is that reporters can't simply "file and forget." He helped design a computerized system to help file and track such requests, and sets e-mail alerts to remind him of various deadlines to ensure he follows up. In January, he left multiple phone messages with the Newtown police chief and others. Then came an initial appeal to Connecticut's Freedom of Information Commission.

In February, by the time the police department both acknowledged his request and denied it, a protracted legal battle had begun.

No one joined AP in the fight. Critics said releasing the tapes would be too traumatic for the parents of the 20 children killed at Sandy Hook and would hurt the investigation and subject witnesses to harassment.

But free press and public access can't only be for information that makes everyone comfortable. By that test, access would get narrower and narrower. Gillum coordinated closely with AP's associate counsel, Karen Kaiser, and Hartford, Conn., lawyer Bill Fish to refute the state's claims that the tapes were protected under rules covering records of child abuse and that broadcasting them would fuel conspiracy theories about the shootings. If those arguments had carried the day they could then have been applied in other cases.

Gillum also endured personal criticism by the prosecutor investigating the Sandy Hook tragedy that he wasn't representing the public in AP's open records fight.

AP won every argument in every hearing, and last week Superior Court Judge Eliot Prescott ruled that releasing the recordings will "allow the public to consider and weigh what improvements, if any, should be made to law enforcement's response to such incidents."

The state's prosecutor abandoned the fight, and Newtown officials announced that they would release the tapes to all media outlets simultaneously by posting them on the town website at 2 p.m.

That morning, Gillum began an electronic stakeout of sorts of the town website and watched in Washington as the website administrators began uploading the files one by one into a publicly accessible part of the site. At 11:14 a.m., nearly three hours before the release time, he was able to download them all and forward copies to AP's top editors.

The beat provided crucial additional time to listen carefully and apply the best, reasoned editorial judgments about how AP should write the story and which audio excerpts should be released to members and customers. It also gave AP time to begin the tedious process of assembling transcripts from the seven audio files.

Within 20 minutes of the APNewsAlert and NewsNow, other news organizations began contacting the AP and Newtown officials asking how AP had obtained the audio before anyone else. The story, written by Gillum and Mike Melia, appeared on at least 37 front pages, including three Connecticut newspapers. Twenty-four hours later, the story was the highest ranked among AP Exchange and ranked No. 3 among all mobile stories and No. 2 for bigstory.ap.org. The AP's video package generated more than 21,590 views on Youtube (<http://bit.ly/1bRXjZx>).

For his commitment to freedom of access to public records, even when the popular position would be to narrow that access, Gillum wins this week's \$500 prize.

Others whose work impressed the judges:

_ Rukmini Callimachi, correspondent, West Africa, for the first-person story of how she found the bodies of people missing in Mali since al-Qaida fighters were run out of the country. Overcoming intimidation and surveillance by the Malian military, Callimachi informed a family that she had found the remains of its loved one and then got a soldier who was disturbed by the crimes committed by his colleagues to take her to the rest of the graves.

www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/ap-reporters-quest-to-find-bodies-ends-in-desert/2013/12/07/ee2056b2-5f76-11e3-8d24-31c016b976b2_story.html

_ Seanna Adcox, newswoman, Columbia, S.C., and Kelli Kennedy, newswoman, Miami, for showing how technical problems are still plaguing implementation of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul. Adcox showed that some people trying to sign up for insurance were being told they were eligible for Medicaid and that their information was being forwarded to their state when, in fact, computer problems were preventing that. Kennedy reported that the administration was quietly telling counselors to stop taking paper applications because they wouldn't be processed by the Dec. 23 deadline, while telling reporters there were no problems.

www.modbee.com/2013/12/05/3071038/apnewsbreak-fed-site-gives-unusable.html

www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/07/paper-obama-care-applications_n_4405091.html?utm_hp_ref=politics

_ Dina Cappiello, investigative reporter, Washington, for breaking the news that the Obama administration was going to allow wind-energy companies to kill or injure eagles through their turbines for up to three

decades without fear of prosecution. The story followed up on an investigative piece she had written in May that a tradeoff in the green benefits of wind energy was that the national bird was being killed by the spinning turbines.

www.nbcnews.com/business/wind-farms-can-kill-eagles-without-penalty-2D11702834

_ Steve Braun, investigative reporter, Washington, for reporting exclusively that a longtime adviser to the U.S. director of national intelligence had resigned after the government learned he had worked since 2010 as a paid consultant for Huawei Technologies Ltd., the Chinese technology company condemned by the U.S. as an espionage threat.

www.cbsnews.com/news/us-intel-adviser-paid-by-chinese-firm-deemed-espionage-threat/

_ Lori Hinnant, correspondent, Paris, and Jan Olsen, correspondent, Copenhagen, Denmark, for using AP's reach throughout Europe to report that the number of European fighters traveling to Syria has nearly doubled since the spring. Hinnant reached more accurate totals than even analysts close to the issue had compiled, while Olsen tracked down a Dane who talked and provided images of his travels, adding a crucial human voice and credibility to Hinnant's figures.

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/sharp-rise-europeans-fighting-syria>

_ Richard Lardner, newsman, Washington, for laying out a questionable deal in which the Pentagon bought \$1 billion worth of helicopters from a Russian firm. A top secret study had said Boeing's Chinook division _ an American firm _ was the best choice.

www.csmonitor.com/USA/Latest-News-Wires/2013/1207/Why-is-US-buying-Russian-helicopters-for-Afghan-military

_ Nicole Winfield, acting bureau chief, Rome, for reporting exclusively that a disgraced priest from the Legion of Christ religious order was marrying the daughter of the former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican and a top adviser to Pope Francis. The story showed the continued duplicity of the Legion and raised the question of what the mother-in-law, a high-ranking Vatican official, knew about the case.

<http://www.chron.com/news/world/article/Disgraced-priest-to-wed-pope-adviser-s-daughter-5038147.php>

Mike Oreskes

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Best of the States (Komor)

Colleagues,

All politics are local, the sage once said, and so too it seems are the best reporting threads for AP journalists seeking the reality around the startup of Healthcare.gov. Americans have watched with anticipation, and sometimes horror, as federal officials try to solve the problems connected with the rollout and implementation of President Barack Obama's health-care overhaul. Sometimes, the fixes wreak as much havoc as the original problems.

We know this in particular because last week, Seanna Adcox, newswoman, Columbia, S.C., and Kelli Kennedy, newswoman, Miami, used their smarts and their sources to reveal some of the messy reality that government officials were not exactly calling to the public's attention.

Their journalistic key? Stick to the basics of reporting they have established as members of the Health Overhaul team: persistence in beat coverage and development of local and state sources.

Adcox learned that some people trying to sign up for insurance were being told not to worry about delays because they were eligible for Medicaid and that their information was being forwarded to their state. The reality was computer problems were preventing their information from being forwarded.

Kennedy reported that the Obama administration was quietly telling counselors to stop taking paper applications because they wouldn't be processed by the Dec. 23 deadline. Meanwhile, reporters were being told there were no problems. (Officials had been encouraging the paper applications because of the massive problems with the website.)

Adcox was at a South Carolina state Senate subcommittee meeting when she heard the state's Medicaid director mention that many of those signing up for insurance might be eligible instead for Medicaid. She cornered him after the meeting and he told her that South Carolina and the other states weren't getting complete information from the federal website to complete Medicaid enrollment. A federal spokeswoman wouldn't go into details about the problem. Still, Adcox was able to confirm details through her state sources. Kennedy makes routine daily calls to health-insurance counselors, officials and others to monitor for problems. A counselor told her about the paperwork stoppage, which conflicted with what government officials had said on a recent call. She was able to confirm the conflict and turn it into her story.

Both of their stories became AP exclusives that found wide play in print and online. Adcox's was matched later by the Washington Post and Wall Street Journal. Kennedy's was featured prominently on national sites including the Huffington Post and Salon.

You can read them here:

www.modbee.com/2013/12/05/3071038/apnewsbreak-fed-site-gives-unusable.html

www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/07/paper-obama-care-applications_n_4405091.html?utm_hp_ref=politics

For breaking national exclusives on a topic of the highest audience interest by using the expertise and contacts developed on their beat and in their states, Adcox and Kennedy share this week's \$300 Best of the States prize.

Mike Oreskes