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Connecting

March 29, 2014

arton, mother of retired Missouri AP newsman **Scott Charton**, celebrated her 90th birthday on Friday at her home in Columbia

ctive news consumers in retirement, Scott reports that Honey takes three daily newspapers plus one weekly; all are from com
le memories. Before supper she reads fellow seasoned-citizen Hank Waters' daily signed editorial in the afternoon Columbia D
a week Honey is waiting for the mailman to deliver her Morrilton, Ark., Petit Jean Country Headlight. She also pores over the
crat-Gazette.

s fan, Honey has a good-sized digital following through Scott's Facebook postings about her wit, wisdom,
aries on events. She quipped to her Facebook fans that she began celebrating the milestone of nine decades weeks
you don't even buy green bananas." There were many knocks on her door with birthday wishes - and in the manner
Honey - whose given name, Jimmie Dean, was picked because her father had wanted a boy - checked her lipstick:
When anti-gay demonstrator Fred Phelps died recently, Honey observed: "You just have to ignore a fool like that -
re he's going." Many of Honey's fans are journalists who are Scott's Facebook friends, from New York's **Polly**
na's **Beth Grace** to Kansas City's **Peg Coughlin**.

ining Honey's friends for a pie party on Saturday. Scott served with the AP in Little Rock from 1983-89 before his
City correspondent, where he led the statehouse team until the job of Missouri Roving Correspondent was created
AP in 2005 to become director of communications and presidential spokesman for the University of Missouri
board. Since 2008 Scott had built new careers as a media consultant and documentary filmmaker in partnership
ssociation. Their recent film about The Joplin Globe's coverage of the 2011 tornado won the Midwest Emmy for Best
na Academy Award for Best Foreign Film.



Christian...

quote **Jack Ronald**, editor and publisher of The Commercial Review in Portland, Ind., who wrote:

the Darrell Christian retired.

ff switch.

s when he was news editor in Indianapolis. David Swearingen had been brought in as bureau chief after John Marlowe. I was j
er daily and had somehow found myself as president of the Indiana APME about 1978.

nsely driven journalist I had ever met. It seemed he never slept. (Swearingen thought he slept at the bureau.) He was skinny, s
would be the cliché today, but Darrell in that era never, ever stopped.

o see a photo of Darrell after he had married, quit smoking, and found the buffet.

e who has been a greater asset to the AP on a day-in-day-out basis than he has been.

aths crossed.

the players' right to unionize

ts writer in Kansas City, covered the NCAA from 1976 to 1999 when the national headquarters moved to Indianapolis. Connect
al Labor Relations Board ruling on Wednesday that said Northwestern football players are seen as employees rather than stud
ere are his thoughts:

ric Dempsey became executive director, the senior staff of the NCAA came to a secret and momentous decision. Reversing de
sports decided it would finally sponsor a football playoff.

ap hundreds of millions off a championship that fans and media had long been clamoring for anyway and make sure the NCAA
ces, ran the event and took charge of the profits.

ry. At long last, a playoff for college football! But the NCAA staffers and their allies among many of the member schools knew
us reasons, a great many influential coaches and university presidents stood in steadfast opposition to a playoff and would need

on committee of mostly sympathetic athletic directors, faculty reps and presidents to conduct an exhaustive study of everyth
on players - everything. And it was all for show. They knew what they wanted to do. They just weren't ready to say so publicly.

with what sounded like a terrific idea - appoint a committee of football players to go out and canvass their peers. What they t

of a playoff, something to help sell the idea such as "We're tired of winning it in the polls, let us decide it on the field."

guys we talked to said they'd be willing to have a playoff, but how much of the money would the players get? We think we'd

in the room when the players made their report later told me, "all conversation stopped. Guys looked at each other and everything ended. All hope for a football playoff had just dropped dead."

box that must remain tightly sealed.

years ago sounded a clear warning - keep escalating the commercialization of the games and we will begin demanding a much and board, books and tuition.

ment, the NCAA and its greedy big-time member schools did listen. Sort of.

called the bowl coalition, which evolved into the BCS. The laughable idea was to somehow have a football playoff without calling it for the men's basketball tournament reached the astonishing level of multiple billions. Conferences like the SEC and Big 12 in the 1990s. Elite coaches such as Billy Donovan and Bob Stoops began signing contracts that railroad tycoons could envy.

week's ruling by the NLRB that football players at Northwestern had the right to unionize was oh, so predictable. Even if Northwestern loses a Supreme Court, a player union that includes both public and private institutions now seems inevitable, an idea whose time has arrived.

unionized, an entire industry will be turned upside down and the law of unintended consequences will run riot. We could see a Final Four where everything, agents negotiating with coaches as to how their clients will be used. Players paying taxes.

back at Alabama and Kansas' all-America point guard will be tooling around town in shiny red sports cars that they paid cash for.

and sprinters could see their activities reduced to club-level sports. There'll be almost no money left to fund the non-revenue sports and equal pay.

schools whose football and basketball programs were rarely prominent - hello, Northwestern - to withdraw from major competition.

for hundreds of thousands of young people will dry up. For the country as a whole, this will all constitute a gigantic loss of income.

one to blame but themselves. Oh, how they'll wish they'd heeded the warning of those football players in 1994.

X

When based in Milwaukee, I was assigned to a photo team headed up by Tom DiLustro to cover the 1967 Pan American Games in Winnipeg. I had a few photo editors and darkroom technicians, our group numbered over a dozen. For the first couple of days, we covered warm up

events started, Tom gathered all of us to a rather nice restaurant. While everyone else ordered steaks and ribs and cocktails, I ordered a salad. I told them I just wasn't that hungry. The truth was I had asked only for a \$300 advance for a two week assignment.

\$400 was delivered to DiLustro, he stood up, counted noses and said something like "\$400 divided by 14 would come out to \$28.57" and the pile. Of course, I had to do the same. Not only was I still hungry, but felt red-faced stupid to boot.

Inspiring and probably the best editor I've known.

My time at the OKC bureau in the 1960s (in Friday's Connecting) sure brought back memories for me. I started in that bureau (which was then OKC) as a vacation relief staffer. In fact, that desk in the foreground I think was the radio desk, where I began work on the 4-midnight shift and never been taught anything about. Someone told me, "Just write it like you say it," which was taking a chance in Okie

the summer, and in September was transferred to Sioux Falls because no permanent slots opened up in the bureau. COB Wilbur Marshall was the only one to be an opening and I'd stay in OKC. My goal was the sports job there to cover OU football. Never happened, of course.

My job in Minneapolis and started covering the Twins and Vikings, U of M sports and, a little later, the North Stars of the NHL. The radio desk is still there. Also, the American Basketball Association cranked up while I was MP sports editor, and I covered the Minnesota Twins commissioner, and at one game I spotted him sitting up high in the arena, all alone. I went up and got an interview that played well



Connecting wishes Happy Birthday

To

[Nick Ut](#)

t

My had a misspelled word

Links for optimism about journalism

Links: If you only have a minute, the most important reads this week are the overview of Pew's State of the News Media report, D

m of the term clickbait, and the Tow Center's Alexander Howard putting the data journalism discussion in historical context.

to bust out of cockpit

ut CNN's Martin Savidge says he's not looking to escape from the Canadian flight simulator where he has spent much of the pa
ed to Malaysia Airlines Flight 370.

Lead Times Magazine

r in chief of Texas Monthly, will become the new editor of The New York Times Magazine, the newspaper announced on Friday
ominated for 12 National Magazine Awards and won four, including the general excellence prize.

Change could save millions (Sally Hale)

nsylvania teenager has published a study suggesting that the federal government could save millions a year in printing costs by
K.

Mirchandani (SU-veer MIRCH-an-dany) of O'Hara, near Pittsburgh, says there was plenty of talk at school about saving paper, a

ociated Press that the magnitude of how much ink the government might use "was really surprising to me." He hopes to make
printing can save ink and money.

egan as a school project but was just published in the Journal of Emerging Investigators, created for promising middle and high
2-point Garamond font to save money.

ts team owner is about to buy another newspaper

ta Timberwolves owner Glen Taylor is close to a deal to buy the Star Tribune, according to a local report that cites unidentified

't helpful

ard about the outrage. The sharp disappointment of betrayal and the dull thud of standards falling. You didn't hear? Well, tha
ditors, and no one listens to them.

AP style anyway?

complaining about how The Assoc. Press keeps changing the style, here's what I have to say: Grab a kleenex, hop in your old Honda, make sure you don't go over 50 m.p.h., drive out to that dive bar on the Western edge of town (the one on E. Washington Rd., I think), and get yourself way past the .08 Blood-Alcohol-Content limit.

Blitzer and the weird state of post-scandal journalism

at the Media" graduate seminar, we're having a brief quiz. What is the best way to prepare for a job as a political columnist? (A) Attend editorial meetings, move up the ladder to the statehouse beat, land in Washington, then break big national scoops. Wait for the columnist to become a member of Congress, commit egregious acts of marital betrayal, resign in shame, then grovel before your family and voters. (B) Write. Of course, is B.

Blitzer and the weird state of post-scandal journalism

Bloomberg showed up at a Bloomberg News morning editorial meeting earlier this week and told staffers he fully supports the need for tough coverage of China. (A second source who was at the meeting says Bloomberg encouraged overall "tough" reporting but "no one is going to tell us what to publish.")

Blitzer and the weird state of post-scandal journalism

of AnonyWatch, New York Times public editor Margaret Sullivan turns a sharp eye on the continuing use of anonymous sources and challenges the use of unnamed sources in reporting on topics large and small, but specifies she is after the kinds of examples of anonymous quotations, the kind that allow people to speculate, offer personal criticism or get a self-serving (often political) spin on it."

Blitzer and the weird state of post-scandal journalism

published a feature on the role of the Academy in foreign policy that asked, among other things, "Where are all the women?" Women journalists account for 20 percent or less of the writers at magazines and newspapers covering the economy, global politics, and more. When happens with mainstream media debates on diversity, Foreign Policy compounded rather than ameliorated the problem it discussed in its panel discussion.

Blitzer and the weird state of post-scandal journalism

long, deep drawers filled with child death cases. "And each one is as bad as the one before it," she said in a phone interview. She has covered Florida's Department of Children & Families, first at the St. Petersburg Times (before it became the Tampa Bay Times) and then in 2000 with the Miami Herald. She's now an investigative reporter. On Sunday, March 16, the Herald began p

h a project that took years, lawsuits and work from around the newsroom. "Innocents Lost" tells the story of 477 children killed by their parents' significant others, by neglect, by drugs, by abuse. But it also tells the story of a system that each one of those fa

Best (fake) news sources (Bob Daugherty)

rprise you to hear that The Onion - and your very own GlobalPost - are far from the only websites turning international crises i
there, rewriting current affairs, making the cynical snigger and duping the global gullible. We took a tour of recent headlines to
of 10 of the world's finest news sources, is what definitely hasn't been happening.

ie Komor)

s these days, and in response to member needs, AP is moving aggressively toward providing data to members and clients so th
around our national- and state-level enterprise.

ary special report showing how more than 18,000 communities in flood-prone areas across the U.S. would be affected by cha
offered a sterling opportunity for localization.

d investigative reporter who has written a great deal about post-Superstorm Sandy insurance issues, looked into the big rate h
flood insurance program. Since the 1970s, many Americans who live in flood-prone areas were able to get their rates subsidiz
vily in debt, Congress decided policyholders had to start paying rates based on true risk of flooding. Some homeowners and b
ight.

outrage, politicians in coastal states advocated that the rate hikes be put on hold or spread out.

ate intensified, Caruso began exploring how many people would likely face the type of rate hikes making headlines. Were thes
flood areas? The seeds of a massive national, state and local data-driven project were planted.

dertaking was key. At this point in mid-February congressional action was seen as likely, but when it might come in the nation
re the dimensions of any solution.

needed to do on the data was quite apparent, however.

urance program, was woefully short on data showing the number of policyholders who might face extreme rate hikes. But ove
mble details on the number and type of subsidized policies in each community that participates. Other data sets showed what
history. One of the biggest challenges was cleaning up the data and distributing such a large amount of it for so many commu

ed up in Washington. As it became apparent Congress intended to take action, Caruso adapted the data set to reflect the cha
s happen all at once, the increases would be gradual. But the impact would still be substantial, because even gradual increases
ne real-estate markets and force small businesses to close.

depth for customers and readers across the country was a huge challenge. Moving quickly, National Investigative Editor Rick
an unprecedented 50 state sidebars. The data was distributed ahead of time to AP members and clients via a password-protected
knowing exactly when President Obama would sign the bill to ease the rates of increase.

Friday the stories were slated to move in advance for customers. Editors on AP regional desks handling the floor insurance p
te all of the national and state stories before they hit the wire. Presenting this package just a couple of days after the presiden

y of photos, the AP Impact project included Allentown, Pa.-based correspondent Michael Rubinkam's video package about Jer
tling with the prospect of years of rate hikes. Interactive producer Phil Holm produced a flat graphic for print customers and a

room Technology Editor Troy Thibodeaux and Pienciak handled scores of emails and calls from members, clients and AP state m
riefings with AP reporters and editors across the country.

tell us they want hyper-local data and this project shows how it can dramatically expand the scope of our journalism. The floo
dozens of sites and front pages, with some clients using Caruso's national story, some using the state-level stories, and still oth
ata provided by AP. Some publications used more than one of the above, occasionally spacing them out over more than one da
ys in which the stories and data were used by AP members and

[/5V9G6K](#), <http://goo.gl/CHUoc6>, http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2014/03/flood_insurance_rates_rising_d.html?appS

ample of how AP can work with its members and clients to help them present exclusive, highly local stories that can't be found
0 Best of the States prize.

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