

## Green, Scott

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**From:** Paul and Linda Stevens <stevenspl@live.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 31, 2013 7:22 AM  
**To:** Paul H. Stevens  
**Subject:** CONNECTING: Elliott on Bolt; Health Care; Gage retirement; Manning verdict; Cleveland layoffs; Al Jazeera; Good Jill, Bad Jill; McClatchy-Obama; Tribune and cat

Colleagues,

Here are some items of interest.

**Steve Elliott** weighs in with his comment on John Bolt's recent post about the AP:

I'm with that post up to a point. But I can't connect the problems it cites, many of them heartbreaking, with the fundamental causes of AP's current woes. AP was fortunate to trail the broader industry's troubles by several years, but now it's doing what its members (or clients or customers) must do: manage costs and try to find a way to address the very real threat of obsolescence, at least in its current form. Independent of who's making the decisions, addressing those challenges as a cooperative, as a still-massive operation with a mandate to cover everything and mostly as a wholesaler of information is even more challenging. Though I'm bullish on the future of journalism, I don't know if the money's out there to support what AP was until recently in terms of state operations and maybe even to support what AP is now. Perhaps AP has a Bloomberg- or Reuters-style niche home run, big international expansion and-or direct-to-consumer play in its future that can subsidize the general operation. I sure hope so.

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As most of you know by now, the AP has sent letters to retirees on changes upcoming Jan. 1, 2014, in our health-care coverage. I think the issue is far too important and too person-specific for Connecting to get into sharing thoughts about the change, as a few have asked, and that your thoughts instead would best be directed to Human Resources.

Relating, in a way, to this change is the fact that AP news-side is making special push to reach member editors and reporters to distribute content on Obamacare as the Affordable Care Act hits the consumer market Oct. 1.

*Dear APME members,*

*Starting Oct. 1, consumers will be able to sign up for getting health insurance through the new federal Affordable Care Act.*

*The Associated Press will be offering a variety of special content to explain to readers what this momentous change in the health care system means to consumers, providers and local governments; how consumers can best navigate the system; and other relevant topics.*

*The Associated Press would like to find out the most effective ways to reach people with emails alerting them to special content and who at your news organization should be on that email distribution list.*

Please go the following link <http://goo.gl/dGWI75> and sign up the names and email addresses of your health care editors, health care reporters or others responsible for health care content.

Best regards,

Jim Simon, Assistant Managing Editor, The Seattle Times

Gary Graham, Editor, The Spokesman-Review

Finally, congratulations on a fine career in newspapering to longtime friend **Ralph Gage of the Lawrence (Kan.) Journal-World**, who worked 43 years for one of the country's best community newspapers and is retiring effective today. He was as passionate as anyone I know about newspapering, never shy to let me know what AP could do better and conversely what it does well, and although he entered the field in the age of Linotypes and print-only, he adapted well to the whirlwind of changes that included cable, regional printing and the online world and helped make the Journal-World a nationwide leader in the online field.

Dolph C. Simons Jr., chairman of The World Company and a former AP director, as was his father, said, "Really, he has played a major role in nearly everything good that has happened to the paper. "Personally, he has been an extremely close friend and business associate. I have valued his judgment and appreciated his honesty and ability to get things done."

Here is a link to its story:

[http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2013/jul/31/longtime-media-executive-ralph-gage-retiring-world/?city\\_local](http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2013/jul/31/longtime-media-executive-ralph-gage-retiring-world/?city_local)

Best,

Paul

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**The Bradley Manning verdict is still bad news for the press**

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/jul/30/bradley-manning-verdict-bad-news-for-journalists>

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**58 employees laid off from Cleveland Plain Dealer** (Shared by Bob Daugherty)

[http://www.newsnet5.com/dpp/news/local\\_news/cleveland\\_metro/more-job-cuts-at-the-cleveland-plain-dealer](http://www.newsnet5.com/dpp/news/local_news/cleveland_metro/more-job-cuts-at-the-cleveland-plain-dealer)

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**Al Jazeera America Announces 12 New U.S. Bureaus and Correspondents**

<http://www.thewrap.com/media/column-post/al-jazeera-america-announces-12-us-bureaus-106916>

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**Good Jill, bad Jill - the queen of the New York Times**

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2013/07/31/good-jill-bad-jill-executive-editor-jill-abramson-queen-of-the-new-york-times.html>

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**McClatchy asks Obama administration if U.S. helped New Zealand collect data on journalist**

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2013/07/30/198117/mcclatchy-asks-obama-administration.html#storylink=cpy>

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**Chicago Tribune Accidentally Publishes a Placeholder Cat Photo on Front Page (Daugherty)**

[http://petapixel.com/2013/07/30/chicago-tribune-accidentally-publishes-a-cat-placeholder-photo-on-front-page/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+PetaPixel+%28PetaPixel%29](http://petapixel.com/2013/07/30/chicago-tribune-accidentally-publishes-a-cat-placeholder-photo-on-front-page/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+PetaPixel+%28PetaPixel%29)