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Connecting - December 15, 2017

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Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 9:07 AM

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

Thanks to Connecting colleague **Bobbie Seril** ([Email](#)) for being the first to share her holiday card with her colleagues.

"I'm happy to share my card with your readership," she said. "I think the sentiment covers us all. For the past 25+ years, I've contributed one meal for each card I send."

make it & merry make it matter.

Wishing you holiday happiness and renewed purpose in the coming year.

Bobbie Seril

In your honor...
Citymeals-on-Wheels will hand-deliver a warm holiday dinner
to a homebound elderly New Yorker
who would otherwise be alone and hungry.



Look forward to receiving your card to share with colleagues.

Speaking of holiday spirit, former Indianapolis bureau newsman **John Strauss** shares the story of working his first Christmas in the bureau - and Santa Claus in the form of bureau chief **Andy Lippman** showing up with a turkey dinner he had cooked. Andy learned to cook in the Army.

Andy started the tradition as Louisville bureau chief when he cooked Cornish game hens to bring to those on duty in the bureau. He continued it as bureau chief in Indianapolis and then as bureau chief and regional executive in Los Angeles, and even for some of the years he was on disability and took early retirement.

Today's issue brings news that **Arthur Sulzberger Jr.**, 66, will retire as New York Times publisher on Dec. 31 and be succeeded by his 37-year-old son, **A.G. Sulzberger**.

The Times is the last major paper with a family member at the helm, noted Poynter columnist **Jim Warren**, who added: "It's amazing how many of the long-supreme newspaper families are gone. Graham, Bancroft, Ridder, Cowles, Bingham, Bonfires, Morris, Chandler, etc., etc. There are smaller papers still in the hands of heirs of founders - about 80 daily papers have been in the same family hands for more than 100 years, says one study. But, by and large, families have sold at a rapid pace, not sticking around, with 90 percent of the industry chain-owned (the crossover happened about 50 years ago)."

Have a great weekend!

Paul

Remembering his first Christmas working in the bureau - and his bureau chief bringing in dinner

John Strauss ([Email](#)) - Thoughtfulness goes a long way, especially in a work world increasingly driven by numbers and performance metrics.

As the holidays drew near, the Indianapolis foundation where I work gave us gift cards and treats.

That made me think of 1984, my first year at the AP, working a weekend sports night in the IND bureau right around Christmas.

We junior staffers were working the holidays and not able to be with family. So it was a surprise and a real treat when out of nowhere our bureau chief showed up with a complete home-cooked turkey dinner.

Andy Lippman had been a cook in the Army, so maybe he was used to feeding the troops. He certainly had a grateful audience, since we had been ready to heat up canned soup and break out the crackers.

Andy went on to Los Angeles, where I think he was known for the same holiday consideration. One thing I know for sure, Andy's kindness to the holiday orphans of

the newsroom was never forgotten.

(John Strauss worked in Indianapolis, Evansville, Ind., Nashville and New York before returning to IND to finish his time with the wire. He's since worked for the Indianapolis Star and Ball State University, before joining Lumina Foundation as digital audience growth editor six months ago.)

Another Christmas Miracle

George Zucker ([Email](#)) - It wasn't the first miracle on Christmas Eve, but it was the first to make big headlines on the nation's sports pages.

Stunned sportswriters spent Christmas 1982 unwrapping superlatives to tell how Chaminade, a little known Roman Catholic college in Hawaii, upset No.1 Virginia, 77-72. It was one of the decade's top sports stories.

"What we did was amazing," Merv Lopes, the jubilant Chaminade coach, told reporters. "It was unbelievable, a 100-to-1 shot!"

Virginia Coach Terry Holland called the game "one of the biggest upsets in college basketball history."

But those of us familiar with the ancient ways of kahunas knew there was a metaphysical side to this holiday shocker that made it a truly blessed event. We were witness to the spiritual help the tiny school near Honolulu enjoyed as it built its intercollegiate athletic program.

On Christmas Eve 1982, the visiting Cavaliers from Virginia and their 7-foot-4, All-America center, Ralph Simpson, faced more than the Chaminade Silver Swords. They were up against an old kahuna blessing.

Chaminade College, founded by Marianist priests, had fewer than 1,000 students. The school did not field its first intercollegiate basketball team until 1975. Five years earlier, while I was the AP bureau chief in Honolulu, I wrote that Hawaiians feared the school was cursed because part of the campus was atop Kalaepohaku, an ancient island burial ground known as an *heiau*. You don't mess with heiaus in Hawaii.

In June 1970, eerie things began happening to workmen building a baseball field in a little valley near the college. A truck sent to pick up a water hose overturned in an

accident. The next day, a second truck flipped over. When a third truck overturned on the third day, the Hawaiian construction crew walked off the job.

Workers said the construction site was cursed by evil spirits and they would not go back to work until the site was blessed by a kahuna.

Herbert Ikeda, president of the Pacific Truckers Association, asked church officials for permission to bring a kahuna on campus to lift the curse. Hawaiians believe a kahuna, a spiritual healer, has secret knowledge that makes him a prophet, priest and doctor. The Catholic church told Ikeda a kahuna would be welcomed on campus to bless the site and offered the services of a kahuna already there -- Chaminade's chancellor himself.

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Charles A. Kekumano, the highest-ranking Hawaiian in the Roman Catholic hierarchy, was a kahuna. Monsignor Kekumano went to the jinxed construction site and chanted ancient Hawaiian prayers known to chase away evil spirits. The tall prelate also sprinkled holy water on the sacred ground. There were no more accidents when the Hawaiian workers returned to complete the baseball field and later, the buildings that would house the school's athletic program.

That is, there were no further odd events until Virginia went to Chaminade for a basketball game on Christmas Eve 1982. But any kahuna will tell you what happened that night was no accident.

Celebrating Christmas in India

Joe McGowan (Email) - Our first of three Christmases in India was 1965. We had been out to a Christmas Eve party at friends, so slept in Christmas morning. BUT, the doorbell rang early. I got up, put on a robe, and answered the door. Five Indian men in government-issued uniforms (almost Khaki) stood at attention and saluted me. I asked what they wanted and their leader replied, "Christmas baksheesh" or Christmas tips. I asked why they deserved anything and one guy said, "I bring cables and telegrams to your house." I told him I got my cables at my office. He replied, "but if you ever get one at home, I will deliver it!" And so it went through men I had never seen or received anything from. But I gave them a few (very few) rupees and they left.

Later that day in mid-afternoon, my Indian newsman Rangaswamy Satakopan arrived at the door with his wife. We invited them in and served tea. The wife did not speak a word of English, but sipped her tea and belched constantly. Finally they left.

We now realized why many of our western (U.S., Canadian, British, etc.) friends had told us they leave their homes Christmas Eve day and check in at a hotel through the holiday.

Merry Christmas, Joe McGowan Jr.

Collecting business cards from restaurants in Thailand



Ted Anthony ([Email](#)) - Melissa, Mason, Wyatt and I have been the fortunate beneficiaries of many an amazing meal over the past four years. From the time we arrived in Thailand, we tried to keep a business card from every place where we ate. It wasn't always possible - one restaurant in North Korea laughed at me when I asked for a business card - but we did what we could. We usually deployed Mason or Wyatt to ask the staff for one at the end of a meal. And then we pasted them up on the sideboard in our dining room, building a collage of deliciousness. Today it came time for me to take them all down, and to remember the distinctive and delicious food that fueled this extraordinary adventure for us. Thank you to all the friends who shared many of these meals with us, and to the countless cooks and waitstaff who created them and brought them to our table and to our gullets.

A.G. Sulzberger, 37, to Take Over as New York Times Publisher



Arthur Sulzberger Jr., the current publisher of The New York Times, and his son, Arthur Gregg Sulzberger, who will assume the job on Jan. 1. Credit Damon Winter/The New York Times

By SYDNEY EMBER

In a generational changing of the guard, Arthur Gregg Sulzberger, 37, will become the publisher of The New York Times on Jan. 1. His father, Arthur Ochs Sulzberger Jr., announced on Thursday that he was turning over the post to his son.

The ascension of the younger Mr. Sulzberger, who is known as A. G., comes just over a year after he was named deputy publisher of The Times. The New York Times Company's board voted in favor of the move during a meeting on Thursday.

The elder Mr. Sulzberger, 66, who will stay on as chairman of The New York Times Company, has been the publisher since 1992.

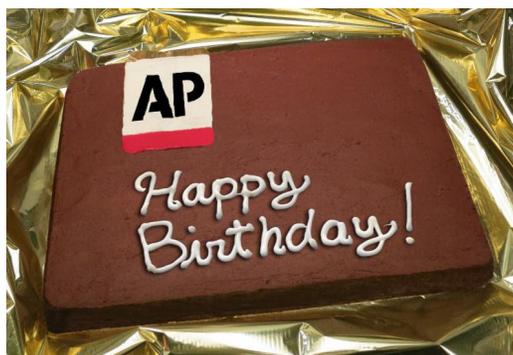
"This isn't a goodbye," Mr. Sulzberger said in a note to Times employees on Thursday. "But, beginning in the new year, the grand ship that is The Times will be A. G.'s to steer."

Best known for heading the team that produced The Times's "innovation report" in 2014, A. G. Sulzberger will be the sixth member of the Ochs-Sulzberger family to serve as publisher since its patriarch, Adolph S. Ochs, purchased the paper in a bankruptcy sale in 1896.

"I am an unapologetic champion for this institution and its journalistic mission," A. G. Sulzberger said. "And I'll continue to be that as publisher."

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

John Strachan - strachanjohna@aol.com

On Sunday to...

Susanne Shaw - sshaw@ku.edu

Stories of interest

Who knew there was an AP poll for the NFL?

(Oklahoman)

By **BERRY TRAMEL**

Did you know there is an AP football poll? For the pros?

Maybe I heard of this when The Associated Press instituted the AP Pro 32, a weekly ranking of every NFL team. But if so, I had forgotten.

Sure enough, though, the AP commissions 12 voters, all among the 50 panelists who choose the NFL's individual awards at the end of the season.

The Steelers have risen to No. 1 in this week's poll, with the Eagles second and Patriots third.

It's great fun to go over and absolutely meaningless, of course. Which is what polls ought to be.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Lindel Hutson.

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FCC votes along party lines to end 'net neutrality'

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY** and **TALI ARBEL**

The Associated Press

The Federal Communications Commission repealed the Obama-era "net neutrality" rules Thursday, giving internet service providers like Verizon, Comcast and AT&T a free hand to slow or block websites and apps as they see fit or charge more for faster speeds.

In a straight party-line vote of 3-2, the Republican-controlled FCC junked the longtime principle that said all web traffic must be treated equally. The move represents a radical departure from more than a decade of federal oversight.

The big telecommunications companies had lobbied hard to overturn the rules, contending they are heavy-handed and discourage investment in broadband networks.

"What is the FCC doing today?" asked FCC chairman Ajit Pai, a Republican. "Quite simply, we are restoring the light-touch framework that has governed the internet for most of its existence."

The push to eliminate net neutrality has stirred fears among consumer advocates, Democrats, many web companies and ordinary Americans afraid that the cable and phone giants will be able to control what people see and do online. But the broadband industry has promised that the internet experience for the public isn't going to change.

The FCC vote is unlikely to be the last word. Net neutrality supporters threatened legal challenges, with New York's attorney general vowing to lead a multistate lawsuit. Some Democrats want to overturn the FCC action in Congress.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - December 15, 2017



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Dec. 15, the 349th day of 2017. There are 16 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 15, 1939, the Civil War motion picture epic "Gone with the Wind," starring Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable, had its world premiere in Atlanta.

On this date:

In 1791, the Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution, went into effect following ratification by Virginia.

In 1864, the two-day Battle of Nashville began during the Civil War as Union forces commanded by Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas attacked Confederate troops led by Gen. John Bell Hood; the result was a resounding Northern victory.

In 1890, Sioux Indian Chief Sitting Bull and 11 other tribe members were killed in Grand River, South Dakota, during a confrontation with Indian police.

In 1938, groundbreaking for the Jefferson Memorial took place in Washington, D.C. with President Franklin D. Roosevelt taking part in the ceremony.

In 1944, a single-engine plane carrying bandleader Glenn Miller, a major in the U.S. Army Air Forces, disappeared over the English Channel while en route to Paris.

In 1965, two U.S. manned spacecraft, Gemini 6A and Gemini 7, maneuvered toward each other while in orbit, at one point coming as close as one foot.

In 1967, the Silver Bridge between Gallipolis (gal-ih-puh-LEES'), Ohio, and Point Pleasant, West Virginia, collapsed into the Ohio River, killing 46 people.

In 1971, the Secret Service appointed its first five female special agents.

In 1978, President Jimmy Carter announced he would grant diplomatic recognition to Communist China on New Year's Day and sever official relations with Taiwan.

In 1989, a popular uprising began in Romania that resulted in the downfall of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu (chow-SHES'-koo).

In 1995, European Union leaders meeting in Madrid, Spain, chose "euro" as the name of the new single European currency.

In 2001, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, Italy, was reopened to the public after a \$27 million realignment that had dragged on for over a decade.

Ten years ago: Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf (pur-VEHZ' moo-SHAH'-ruhv) lifted a six-week-old state of emergency. International climate talks in Bali, Indonesia, culminated in a last-minute U.S. compromise and an agreement to adopt a blueprint for fighting global warming by 2009. Celine Dion concluded a five-year engagement at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

Five years ago: A day after the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, investigators worked to understand what led the 20-year-old gunman to slaughter 26 children and adults after also killing his mother and before taking his own life. In his Saturday radio address, President Barack Obama declared that "every parent in America has a heart heavy with hurt" and said it was time to "take meaningful action to prevent more tragedies like this."

One year ago: A federal jury in Charleston, South Carolina, convicted Dylann Roof of slaughtering nine black church members who had welcomed him to their Bible study. In an unexpected reversal, President Barack Obama declined to sign a renewal of sanctions against Iran but let it become law anyway, in an apparent bid to alleviate Tehran's concerns that Washington was backsliding on the nuclear deal. Colorado's Mike MacIntyre was selected The Associated Press college football Coach of the Year after leading the Buffaloes to a 10-3 record and their first bowl game since 2007.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-comedian Tim Conway is 84. Singer Cindy Birdsong (The Supremes) is 78. Rock musician Dave Clark (The Dave Clark Five) is 75. Rock musician Carmine Appice (Vanilla Fudge) is 71. Actor Don Johnson is 68. Actress Melanie Chartoff is 67. Movie director Julie Taymor is 65. Movie director Alex Cox is 63. Actor Justin Ross is 63. Rock musician Paul Simonon (The Clash) is 62. Movie director John Lee Hancock is 61. Democratic Party activist Donna Brazile is 58. Country singer Doug Phelps (Brother Phelps; Kentucky Headhunters) is 57. Movie producer-director Reginald Hudlin is 56. Actress Helen Slater is 54. Actor Paul Kaye (TV: "Game of Thrones") is 53. Actress Molly Price is 52. Actor Garrett Wang (wahng) is 49. Actor Michael Shanks is 47. Actor Stuart Townsend is 45. Figure skater Surya Bonaly is 44. Actor Geoff Stults is 41. "Crowd-hyper" Kito Trawick (Ghostown DJs) is 40. Actor Adam Brody is 38. Actress Michelle Dockery is 36.

Actor George O. Gore II is 35. Actress Camilla Luddington is 34. Rock musician Alana Haim (HYM) is 26. Actress Maude Apatow (AP'-ih-tow) is 20. Actress Stefania Owen is 20.

Thought for Today: "The drama of life begins with a wail and ends with a sigh." - Minna Antrim, American writer (1856-1950).

Got a story or photos to share?

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:

- **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.

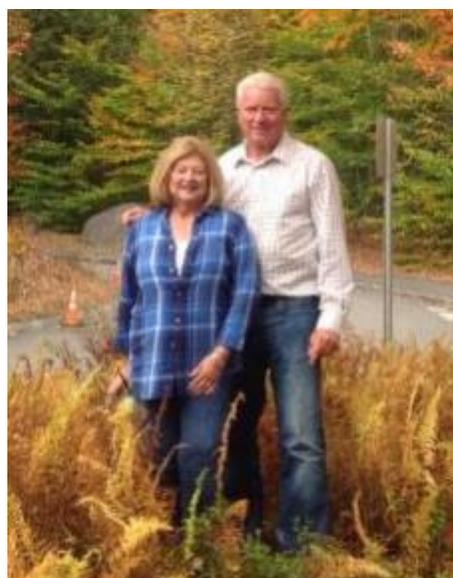
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **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?

- **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.

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.



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