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Connecting - December 18, 2018

1 message

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AP motorcycle messenger Pete Schivilla departs AP headquarters at 50 Rockefeller Plaza with a photo package destined for one of New York's daily newspapers in March 1939. Although the AP had been transmitting photos by wire for four years, competitive big-city dailies also wanted original prints. (AP Photo/Anthony Camerano)

Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

It's not easy to summarize the Year 2018 in 91 seconds of video.

But AP marketing manager **Antoine Vessaud** shares [this vimeo](#) that does just that - and we will bring you another AP-produced video - three minutes in length - later this week or early next that will be shown on Times Square on New Year's Eve.

Today's issue brings sad news of the death of AP retiree **Irwan Yulianto**, who once worked as an AP motorcycle messenger (similar to one in the photo above) and then in the New York mailroom at AP headquarters when it was located at 50 Rockefeller Plaza.

Speaking of 50 Rock, we bring you first responses from those who worked there. A story in Monday's issue noted that that Monday was the 80th anniversary of the AP moving into the AP building at that address.

Have a good day!

Paul

Irwan Yulianto dies; worked in mailroom, earlier as motorcycle messenger at 50 Rock

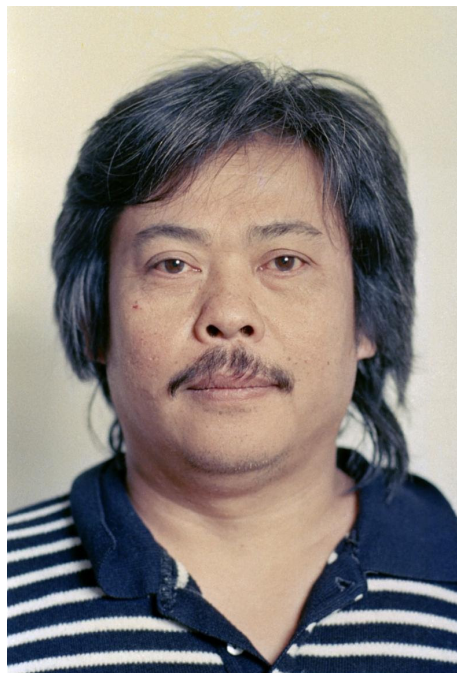
Irwan Yulianto, an Associated Press retiree who worked in the mailroom at New York headquarters when it was located at 50 Rockefeller Plaza and whose earlier assignments included being an AP motorcycle messenger, has died.

His daughter Elizabeth said he died last Thursday. He was 77.

A memorial service will be held Thursday at Peter Jarema Funeral Home, [129 East 7th Street \(near Avenue A\)](#) in New York City, from 10 am to 1 pm.

Yulianto was hired as an office boy in 1972 and later worked as assistant to photo dispatcher, photo dispatcher and photo assistant before he joined the mailroom.

Santos Chaparro, an AP colleague, said that in the 1970's, at 50 Rock, AP maintained a mailroom in the Photos department where hundreds of wet printed photos from the darkroom needed to be dried, captioned and collated for distribution to various AP members in the NYC area. This also included preparing weekly mailings to London, Tokyo and other foreign bureaus.



1987 photo

Irwan Yulianto was one of nine staffers always there to either dry prints, caption or collate them for distribution. He would also volunteer to make the courier runs to distribute large manila envelopes filled with photo prints to members such as the Daily News, The Post, Newsday and The New York Times.

"For a short time during the 1970s and possibly into the 1980s," Chaparro said, "Irwan was one of AP's motorcycle couriers delivering Newsphotos to members as well as picking up film from photographers on assignment. He was invaluable to photographers covering a parade or protest route. Getting back quickly with photographers caption bags filled with film from riots, a blackout, ball game or a hockey match."

Joe Madison, newsphoto editor in the Photo Library who was a co-worker of Irwan in the darkroom, said he "was always fun to be around, he had a great sense of humor...We will have fond memories."

Two of Irwan's former New York colleagues shared memories of how he helped them negotiate New York City.

Said Sean Thompson, "Irwan helped me as a newbie New Yorker with getting around the city. He gave me my first subway map and insight as to which of the subway lines were 'screwey' as he put it. He also had a great sense of humor and always brightened my day and left me smiling."

Lorie Jamias said Irwan "taught me how to ride the NYC bus...I met him on the street on 60th & 2nd Ave..and he showed me how to catch a bus from there to Rockefeller Center. That was a fond memory because I never liked buses until he showed me.

"Oh...and the way I got to Irwan's heart was through eating hot sauce that no one in the darkroom could come head to head with him in. And that was my entryway into a long and lasting friendship with him.

"Like Sean said, he had a great sense of humor and although he was small in stature, he was big in life."

New Connecting series:

**Your memories of working at 50
Rockefeller Plaza**

'What's it like to be a Rockette?'

Charles Hanley (Email) - Sandwiched between the television studios, the "world's Christmas tree," Radio City Music Hall, and all the rest, I guess even we ink-stained wretches of 50 Rock felt a little glamour rub off on us occasionally. On the NY Broadcast Desk in the early '70s, Pamela, my wife, worked a lot of night shifts, taking a waiting taxi home to her Upper East Side apartment at shift's end. One of the usual cabbies, having seen this pretty young woman show up midnight after midnight, finally turned to her one night and asked, "What's it like to be a Rockette?"

-0-

On the night the lights went out in the city

Greg Nokes (Email) - What comes first to mind of my two years at 50 Rock is the power blackout of November 9, 1965, that affected all of New York City and about 30 million people total.

I was working the evening shift on the World Desk when the computers (M15s) started garbling throughout the entire fourth floor newsroom. Went on like that for a few minutes. So while the techs were working their customary magic, I decided to go down to the lobby for a snack. Hopped on the elevator, which, unusually, began to ever so slowly descend to the lobby. I made it, although at first I didn't think the doors would open. But finally they slowly ground open. Still, I had no idea of a serious problem other than a balky elevator. But I next noticed the lobby lights were blinking and so were the lights in the building across the way. I stepped outside with many others to watch in amazement as the lights in all the surrounding buildings blinked in unison, once, twice and then everything went out. Totally black, except for the lights from passing traffic, which also seemed to stop. Seeing Manhattan go from its nighttime brilliance to nothing was a sight I'll never forget.

In blackness, aided by someone's flashlight, I and others took the stairs back to the fourth floor where waited while our techs managed to jury rig the semblance of a system that connected us, as I recall, with London, so we could at least have contact with the rest of the world. .

Anyway, no going home that night to my home in Port Washington, and since the overnight crew couldn't to get to work, I and others were assigned to stay where we were, not that we could go anywhere.

Later that night The AP found us rooms at a downtown hotel (the Taft, I think), and with the aid of flashlights, we marched up X flight of stairs to our rooms, still in total darkness.

Kind of a blur from there, but back at work in the daytime, the lights came on after being out for 13 hours, leaving one hell of a bizarre memory of life at 50 Rock.

P.S. -I was lucky in that elevator, as others who followed were stuck between floors.

Connecting colleagues' holiday traditions

Bobbie Seril ([Email](#)) - I began hosting a Latke-Vodka open house on Christmas day to give treeless Jews a place to go and a bite to eat. Happily, over the years, the party has grown exponentially to include many tree-weary non-Jews.



And because it's New York City, anyone who's so inclined can indulge in holiday spirits and be the designated drinker. Just throw yourself onto/into some public conveyance, and, poof, you're home!

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Paul Stevens ([Email](#)) - As AP's Wichita correspondent in the late 1970s, I was asked to play Santa for a Breakfast with Santa program for kids. It turned out to be a favorite Christmas memory that included writing a first-person story about the experience and what kids wanted from Santa.

Afterward, my younger daughter Molly, then about 2, climbed on my lap while I cooled off with a Coke (yes, just a Coke!) and AP Kansas City photographer John Filo snapped this picture. John happens to be a Pulitzer Prize winner (Kent State, 1970) who is now with CBS News (and a Connecting colleague) and Molly teaches second grade with two kids of her own.

And no, as I mentioned to a friend, I am not the model for Bad Santa!

Connecting mailbox

Anna and her 'goofy' dad



Bill Vogrin (Email) - My daughter Anna, 29, fell in love with all things Disney as a small child and dressed as Minnie Mouse at Halloween as a little girl. She served three semester-long Disney internships in college and then was hired at Walt Disney World upon her graduation. Disney also sponsored her pursuit of a master's degree. It makes perfect sense because everyone knows her dad is Goofy! (Anna received

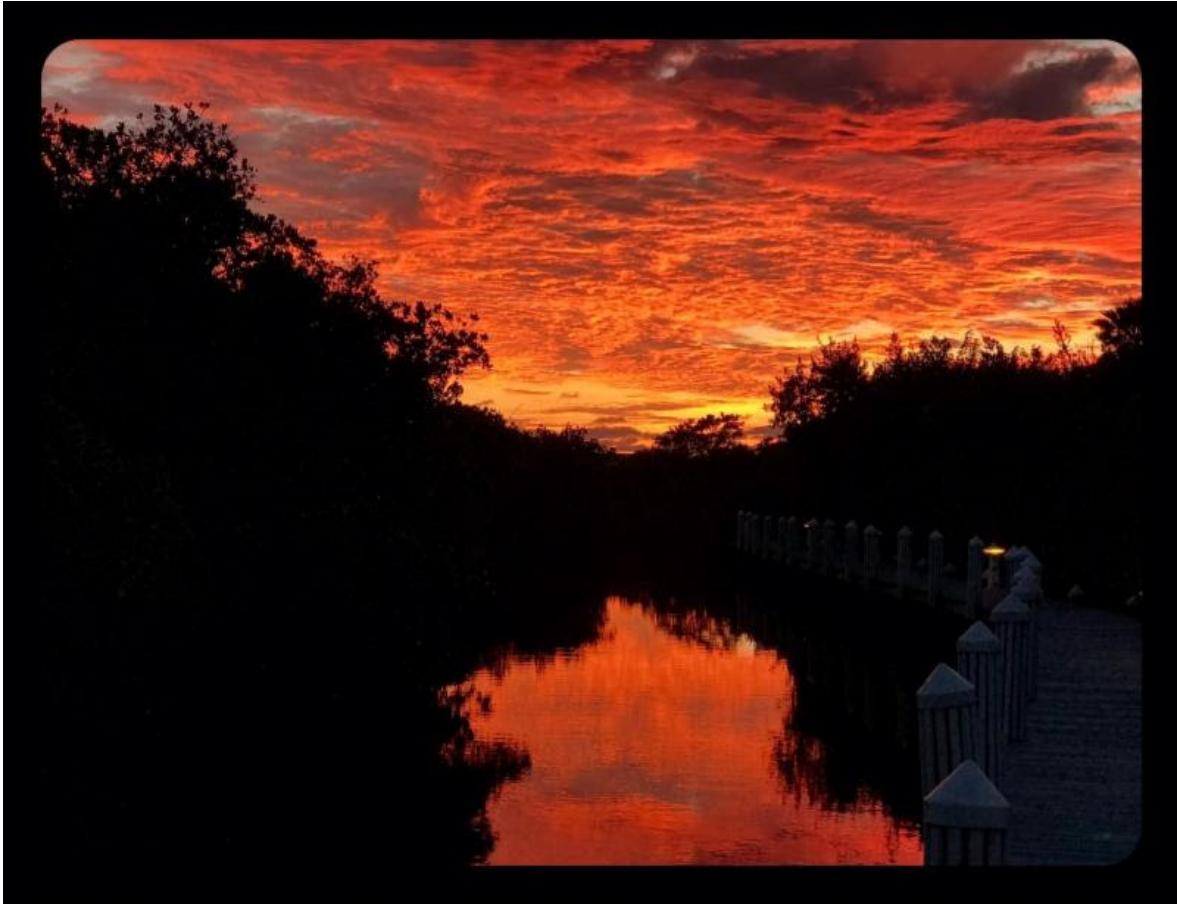
her Master's degree in Hospitality Management on Saturday at the University of Central Florida in Orlando.)

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Connecting sky shots - Malta and Florida



Kevin Walsh ([Email](#)) - Sunset over Gozo, Malta.



George Arfield ([Email](#)) - Four days ahead of the winter solstice, the sun sets over Phillippi Creek in Sarasota, Florida. Taken from our grounds.

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'Burning,' 'Cold War' top AP's best films of 2018

By **JAKE COYLE** and **LINDSEY BAHR**

Associated Press Film Writers Jake Coyle and Lindsey Bahr name their choices for the best films of 2018.

JAKE COYLE

1. "Burning": It was, for sure, an extraordinary movie year. Little to nothing separates my favorite 10 films, or, for that matter, my top 20 or 30. Many of the year's best

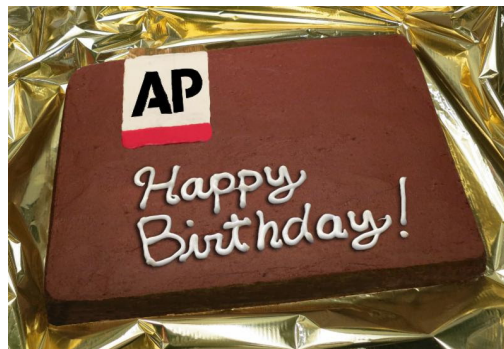
were found overseas, and none haunted me more than Lee Chang-dong's smoldering slow-burn thriller. An adaptation of a Haruki Murakami short story, "Burning" is about a triangle of young Koreans (Yoo Ah-in, Jeon Jong-seo, Steven Yeun - all astonishing) divided by class but united in heartache and rage. At sunset, with Miles Davis playing, it reaches an aching crescendo.

LINDSEY BAHR

1. "Cold War": Romantic, passionate, tragic and perfectly unsentimental, filmmaker Pawel Pawlikowski's "Cold War" is an intoxicating portrait of an impossible, cruel and undeniable love between a musician, Wiktor (Tomasz Kot) and a singer with an "it factor," Zula (Joanna Kulig). Shot in stunningly crisp black and white, Pawlikowski's film is a triumph in an 85-minute package.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Will Lester - wjlester@aol.com

Stories of interest

More Powerful Than a Russian Troll Army: The National Enquirer (New York Times)



If it had stuck with its original mission - digging up dirt on the rich and famous, without a care for the rules of traditional journalism - The Enquirer would have had the tabloid story of a lifetime. Credit - Mary Altaffer/Associated Press

By Jim Rutenberg

The most powerful print publication in America might just be The National Enquirer. It functioned as a dirty-tricks shop for Donald J. Trump in 2016, which would have been the stuff of farce - the ultimate tabloid backs the ultimate tabloid candidate - if it hadn't accomplished its goal.

The Enquirer's power was fueled by its covers. For the better part of the campaign season, Enquirer front pages blared sensational headlines about Mr. Trump's rivals from eye-level racks at supermarket checkout lanes across America. This stroke-of-genius distribution apparatus was dreamed up by the man who made The Enquirer the nation's biggest gossip rag: its previous owner, Generoso Pope Jr.

The Enquirer's racks, under the current chief, David J. Pecker, were given over to the Trump campaign. This was a political gift even more valuable than the \$150,000 that The Enquirer paid in a "catch-and-kill" deal with the former Playboy model Karen McDougal for her story of an affair with Mr. Trump.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

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CNN Legal Setback Points to Tougher Times Ahead for Media Companies (Hollywood Reporter)

By Eriq Gardner

CNN may still be enjoying its courtroom victory last month saving White House correspondent Jim Acosta's press pass, but as far as the First Amendment goes, the television news network better be ready to play some defense. That's because on Friday, CNN suffered a bruising loss in an important appeal that will at the very least make it easier to sue the media in federal court in a handful of states including Georgia, where CNN is headquartered.

The appeal arises from a series of reports in June 2015 on the infant mortality rate for open-heart surgery at West Palm Beach, Florida-based St. Mary's Medical Center. That series, showcased on Anderson Cooper's show, asserted that St. Mary's "death rate" was three times the national average - prompting defamation lawsuits, including from David Carbone, formerly the chief executive at the hospital until he was forced to resign upon CNN's report. Carbone alleges that CNN made an unfair comparison to hospitals that did both open-heart and closed-heart surgeries, and that a more proper comparison would be adjusted for risk.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

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Trump says he wants a government-run media outlet. He's ignored the one he has - so far (Los Angeles Times)

By NOAH BIERMAN

For a president who rails against the "fake news media" and dreams aloud of creating a state-run alternative, the Voice of America would seem an irresistible target.

The government-owned news service beams around the world, reaching an estimated 275 million people on radio, internet and television, with a brand honed during the mid-20th century Cold War era that President Trump idealizes as a time of unquestioned American greatness.

Yet two years into his administration, despite predictions that he would transform it into "Trump TV," the Voice of America has remained largely untouched.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Steve Graham.

The Final Word

The Best Gadgets of 2018 (Time)

From high-tech tablets to powerful new cameras, it's never been a better time to be a gadget fan. Here are some of our favorite gizmos of the year, including a gaming controller for disabled players and a hair styler that promises to do less damage to your do.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - December 18, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 18, the 352nd day of 2018. There are 13 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 18, 1865, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery, was declared in effect by Secretary of State William H. Seward.

On this date:

In 1787, New Jersey became the third state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1892, Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky's ballet "The Nutcracker" publicly premiered in St. Petersburg, Russia; although now considered a classic, it received a generally negative reception from critics.

In 1916, during World War I, the 10-month Battle of Verdun ended with French troops succeeding in repulsing a major German offensive.

In 1917, Congress passed the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibiting "the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors" and sent it to the states for ratification.

In 1940, Adolf Hitler signed a secret directive ordering preparations for a Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union. (Operation Barbarossa was launched in June 1941.)

In 1944, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the government's wartime evacuation of people of Japanese descent from the West Coast while at the same time ruling that "concededly loyal" Americans of Japanese ancestry could not continue to be detained.

In 1957, the Shippingport Atomic Power Station in Pennsylvania, the first nuclear facility to generate electricity in the United States, went on line. (It was taken out of service in 1982.)

In 1972, the United States began heavy bombing of North Vietnamese targets during the Vietnam War. (The bombardment ended 11 days later.)

In 1987, Ivan F. Boesky was sentenced to three years in prison for his role in a major Wall Street insider-trading scandal. (Boesky served about two years of his sentence).

In 1992, Kim Young-sam was elected South Korea's first civilian president in three decades.

In 1998, the House debated articles of impeachment against President Bill Clinton. South Carolina carried out the nation's 500th execution since capital punishment resumed in 1977.

In 2000, The Electoral College cast its ballots, with President-elect George W. Bush receiving the expected 271; Al Gore, however, received 266, one fewer than expected, because of a District of Columbia Democrat who'd left her ballot blank to protest the district's lack of representation in Congress.

Ten years ago: A U.N. court in Tanzania convicted a former Rwandan army colonel, Theoneste Bagosora, of genocide and crimes against humanity for masterminding the killings of more than half a million people in a 100-day slaughter in 1994. (Bagosora was sentenced to life in prison, but had his sentence reduced in 2011 to 35 years.) W. Mark Felt, the former FBI second-in-command who'd revealed himself as "Deep Throat" three decades after the Watergate scandal, died in Santa Rosa, Calif., at age 95. "Star Trek" actress Majel Barrett Roddenberry, widow of series creator Gene Roddenberry, died in Los Angeles at age 76.

Five years ago: A presidential advisory panel released a report recommending sweeping changes to government surveillance programs, including limiting the bulk collection of Americans' phone records by stripping the National Security Agency of its ability to store that data in its own facilities. Ronnie Biggs, 84, known for his role in Britain's 1963 Great Train Robbery, died in London.

One year ago: An Amtrak train making the first-ever run along a faster route hurtled off an overpass south of Seattle and spilled some of its cars onto the highway below; three people were killed and dozens were hurt. (Investigators found that the train was traveling 80 mph in a 30 mph zone.) A fire and blackout at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the world's busiest, forced the cancellation of more than 1,500 flights just days before the start of the Christmas rush; airlines said some of the grounded travelers would have to wait days before there would be available seats on flights. The Los Angeles Lakers retired numbers 8 and 24, both of the jersey numbers worn by Kobe Bryant, the leading scorer in franchise history.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Cicely Tyson is 94. Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark is 91. Actor Roger Mosley is 80. Rock singer-musician Keith Richards is 75. Writer-director Alan Rudolph is 75. Movie producer-director Steven Spielberg is 72. Blues artist Ron Piazza is 71. Movie director Gillian Armstrong is 68. Movie reviewer Leonard Maltin is 68. Rock musician Elliot Easton is 65. Actor Ray Liotta is 64. Comedian Ron White is 62. R&B singer Angie Stone is 57. Actor Brad Pitt is 55. Professional wrestler-turned-actor "Stone Cold" Steve Austin is 54. Actor Shawn Christian is 53. Actress Rachel Griffiths is 50. Singer Alejandro Sanz is 50. Actor Casper Van Dien is 50. Country/rap singer Cowboy Troy is 48. Rapper DMX is 48. International Tennis Hall of Famer Arantxa Sanchez Vicario is 47. DJ Lethal (Limp Bizkit) is 46. Pop singer Sia is 43. Country singer Randy Houser is 42. Actor Josh Dallas is 40. Actress Katie Holmes is 40. Actor Ravi Patel is 40. Singer Christina Aguilera is 38. Christian rock musician Dave Luetkenhoelter (Kutless) is 36. Actress Ashley Benson is 29. Actress-singer Bridgit Mendler is 26. Actress Isabella Cramp is 14.

Thought for Today: "It's a complex fate, being an American." - Henry James, American author (1843-1916).

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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