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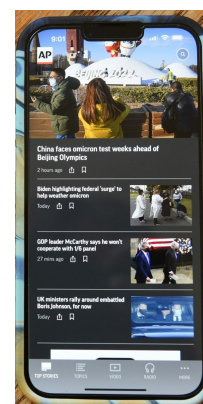
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Connecting

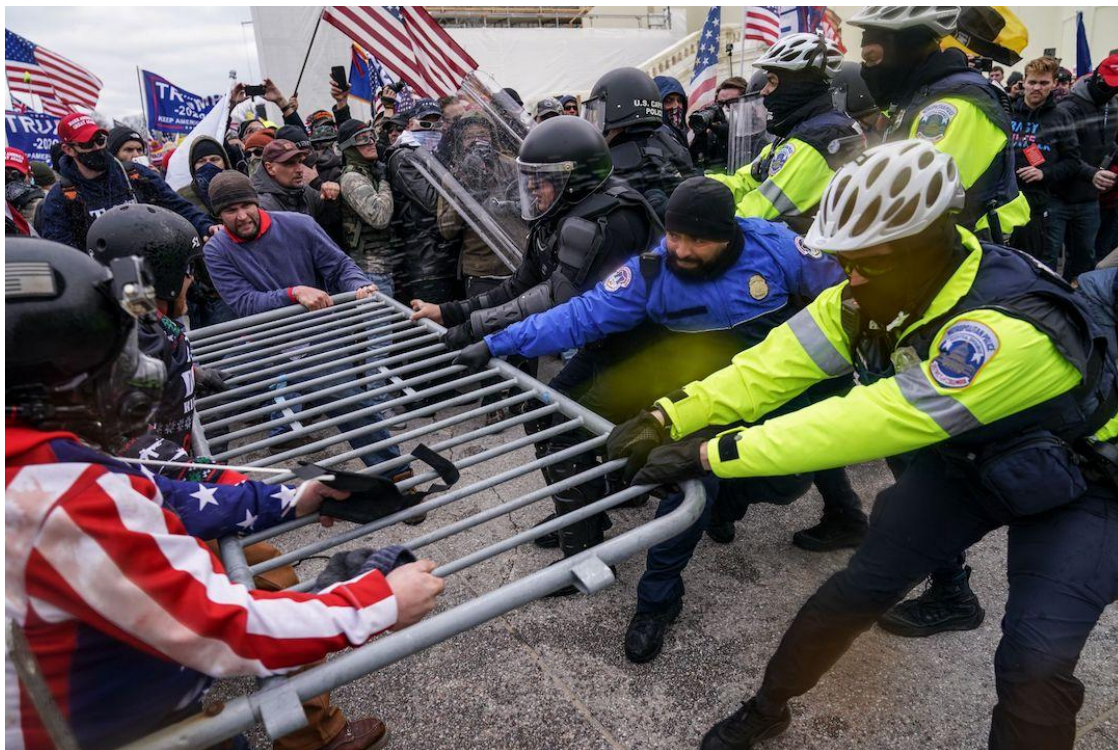
March 8, 2023

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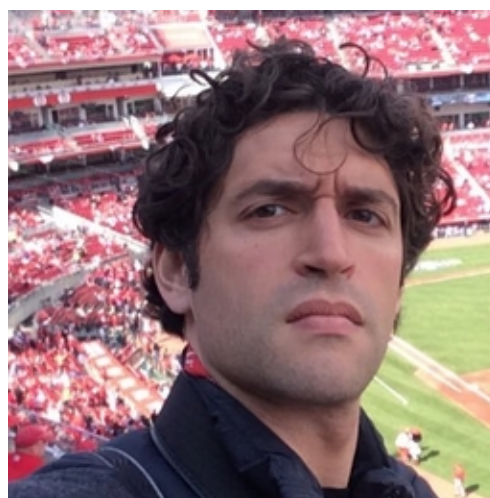
A scene from the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, as Trump supporters try to break through a police barrier. (AP Photo/John Minchillo)

Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this March 8, 2023,

AP photographer **John Minchillo** might have a thing or two to say about Fox News' Tucker Carlson attempts to explain away the deadly Capitol attack.

Notes our colleague [Dan Sewell](#) – “Tucker Carlson’s attempted whitewash of the Jan. 6 insurrection is offensive to the police and survivors of those assaulted by the mob, and AP people should also be offended because one of our own was attacked and imperiled while just doing his job ([see harrowing footage in this link](#), captured by his colleague, AP photographer Julio Cortez.)



“John Minchillo, I can say from his few years with AP in Cincinnati, is one of the best and bravest photographers around. See [John Minchillo.com](#) for examples. As Anderson Cooper, who I did see in dangerous places such as Haiti and New Orleans post-Katrina, said Tuesday night, Carlson would be ‘wetting his pants’ if caught in the Jan. 6 mob.”

Cooper, CNN's anchor, said: “The idea of Tucker Carlson being in that mob that day and not wetting his pants is hard to imagine. I find it hard to understand somebody

who has never put himself in harm's way in any capacity for anyone else or on reporting a story, and yet has the audacity to try to rewrite history."

Does the AP serve members or customers, or both? That question posed in Tuesday's Connecting brought responses from both those who were member/customers and who worked for AP. Got your own thoughts on the subject? Please share.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Member or customer?

Dave Butler - In response to Paul Albright's letter about "customers", I don't think The AP has had "members" for a long time. As a former "member" editor, I watched with despair as both the AP and the "members" whittled away at the relationship.

The news cooperative was designed to share information, under New York law. AP stopped getting or welcoming contributions as many "members" started sharing or selling their content to others outside of their organizations. (Ah, supplemental wires. Reuters cheap rates, Getty photos.)

The growth of digital complicated the relationship. And there was the issue of fairness on rates — and organizations threatening to leave because they were desperate for savings. "Membership" meant nothing.

I recall when the AP board significantly changed the by-laws and delegated much of its oversight, including contract financial terms, to AP management. I don't recall hearing any reaction. Annual meetings lacked attendance and were moved to the New York offices. And AP stopped providing financials as part of the annual report it distributed.

The elimination of bureau chiefs severed the closest ties AP had to individual "members".

So yes, the news organizations became less important customers as the commercial business grew. And many younger editors had no experience with or knowledge of what it had once meant to be a "member". Likewise, as the generations of AP management changed, they naturally had a different attitude, too.

Did the "members" give away their standing or did AP take it away? Both.

I suspect AP's non-profit cooperative status could be hard to maintain in this changing world. Not much sharing.

Should we lament the changes? Do I wish AP had been more candid with its "members" about how it was changing? Sure...but...

(EDITOR'S NOTE From Dave Butler: Dave Butler is the retired VP for news for MediaNews Group — under Singleton control — and is a former top editor of The Providence Journal, San Jose Mercury News, L.A. Daily News, The Detroit News, and the New Haven Register. He drove more than a few bureau chiefs crazy.)

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Tom Fenton - Following up on your member vs customer discussion: When I left AP and then after seven years at Gannett, I quickly signed up our startup business journal, El Paso Inc., for the AP. Think it was the old IB wire but we also got stock tables and some other things including photos. El Paso Inc. started out as a member with voting rights, board minutes etc. A year or two later I realized I was not getting board minutes and ballots. When I inquired, I was told that El Paso Inc. had been (quietly) shifted to a customer basis. It didn't change our rate and I had other things to lose sleep over; so, I didn't pursue it.

But I gotta tell you what troubles me today is the recent announcement that AP is redoing the website and is planning to attract advertising. This chaps because while the industry struggles for digital dimes while losing ad dollars, it puts AP into direct competition with members (and customers). I understand the executive drive to expand the empire, but I am surprised the board is not forcing the public to access AP content through member formats. Will members get a rate reduction as a result? Will this be used to justify holding current rates static? Will staff get an increase? Retirees? Right.

Thanks for letting me vent.

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Charlotte Porter - I said it out loud to anyone who would listen: If AP starts treating members like customers, they will start treating AP like a vendor instead of a partner. And God help us. I leave it to others to debate how much this came to pass, if at all.

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Dave Tomlin – Of course a purchaser who is part owner of the supplier and also helps make the product is different from one who buys at arm's length. But AP's way of thinking and talking about the differences often turned them into smug pieties. Membership implied a virtuous partnership between seller and buyer, whereas a vendor and a customer were mere parties in a relationship that was transactional, self-serving and inherently dishonest.

For several years I was in charge of a group of middle-aged men AP hired to help us sell newspaper production equipment to our members. They sensed all of the above right away and were alienated and offended by it. They were also baffled. In the professional culture they came to us from, a good customer was just as cherished as any AP member ever was.

New Trends and Culture team led by Ted Anthony

Note to AP staff Tuesday from [Michael Giarrusso](#), Deputy Head of Newsgathering, Global Beats:

I'm writing to tell you about an exciting new team within the News Department that will broaden our report and make it much easier to jump on breaking news that overlaps with culture, how we live and what people are talking about.

The global effort will be called "Trends and Culture" and it will be led by Ted Anthony, who just wrapped up 10 months as interim Global Enterprise editor. The emphasis will be on insightful and unexpected stories that are directly off the news. As Ted says, it's about "making the news a bit more featurey and features a bit more newsy."

Some examples of the kind of stories we are looking for:

- [Shooting by 6-year-old raises complex cultural questions](#)
- [A theater of propaganda: The Capitol, cameras and selfies](#)
- [2020: A year where the fist-bump became mainstream greeting](#)
- [Hues and cries: The colors of protests around the world](#)
- [The iPhone at 15, through pro photographers' eyes](#)
- [Inflation hits NYC's bodega favorite: Bacon, egg and cheese](#)
- [How the 'boneless wing' became a tasty culinary lie](#)

When done well, and often quickly – though there will be deeper dives too - these conceptual stories gain traction on digital platforms and with traditional customers.

In many ways, this is a continuation of what has been happening informally across AP for more than a decade. Ted and other leaders have been pushing our journalists to develop "crossover stories" that might not fit in any particular bucket, but that touch multiple areas of interest. Everyone in the global newsroom will have a role to play in making this effort a success, though we do expect to open up a few positions to work on this team full-time. More on that to come later this year.

These kinds of stories involve close collaboration, so Ted will be joining the Global Beats, which are already full of people doing this kind of journalism. He'll also be working closely with the Digital team, given that these kinds of stories will often be centerpieces on APNews.

The team's success depends on using the scope and geographic footprint of the AP to ensure these stories come from all corners and reflect the richness and diversity of the news report. We expect it to be an exciting opportunity for AP voices that don't always get heard to take center stage.

Please reach out to Ted or me if you have any questions.

Jerry Ceppos tribute



Peggy Walsh - LSU dedicated its annual report for the Manship School of Communications to Jerry Ceppos, former dean and longtime journalist, mentor and advocate of democracy, diversity and ethics.

Jerry was a dear friend to many in the journalist community.

(Jerry, who was a Connecting colleague, died July 29, 2022, at 75.)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Heidi Brown

[Hoyt Harwell](#)

Stories of interest

Funding news: How Gen Z and Millennials pay for or donate to news

BY THE MEDIA INSIGHT PROJECT

As the economics of journalism continue to evolve, a defining question about the future is whether the news media can create content that consumers are willing to pay for or donate to directly.

Central to answering that question is understanding the behavior of what many publishers call the next generation of news audiences, those Americans that many legacy news organizations have found elusive: Millennials and Gen Z.

Funding news examines in detail who among these audiences pay for or donate to news, how these payers or donors get news, and what topics or interests drive that behavior. This report, based on a representative sample of nearly 6,000 news consumers 16 to 40 years old, is part of a series of studies of these audiences conducted by the Media Insight Project, a collaboration of The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and the American Press Institute. The new findings expand on paying or donating behavior we touched on only briefly in two prior releases, the first on major news attitudes among Millennials and Gen Z and a second on the topics these diverse generations most often follow.

Overall, the analysis finds that 60% of people younger than 40 already pay for or donate to news in some way. And people who pay for or donate to news comprised a majority in every age category we evaluated — it is not only most older Millennials or their younger Millennial counterparts who pay for or donate to news, but also Gen Z. The older they are, however, the more likely they are to pay or donate.

In all, 51% of Gen Z (16- to 24-year-olds) pay for or donate to news, and that number rises to 63% among younger Millennials (25- to 31-year-olds) and to 67% among older Millennials (32- to 40-year-olds). The numbers suggest a real potential for sustainable revenue — if news organizations, whether legacy or start-up, can create content Millennials and Gen Zers find valuable.

Read more [here](#).

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Tucker Carlson amplifies Jan. 6 lies with GOP-provided video (AP)

By **LISA MASCARO, MARY CLARE JALONICK and FARNOUSH AMIRI**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Handed some 41,000 hours of Jan. 6 security footage, Fox News' Tucker Carlson has launched an impassioned new effort to explain away the deadly Capitol attack, linking the Republican Party ever more closely to pro-Trump conspiracy theories about the 2021 riot.

The conservative commentator aired a first installment to millions of viewers on his prime-time show, working to bend perceptions of the violent, grueling siege that played out for the world to see into a narrative favorable to Donald Trump.

He promised more Tuesday night — amid calls from critics to stop.

The undertaking by Fox News comes as Trump is again running for president, and executives at the highest levels of the cable news giant have admitted in unrelated court proceedings that it spread the former president's false claims about the 2020 election despite dismissing Trump's assertions privately.

The effort dovetails with the work of Republicans on Capitol Hill, led by House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, who turned over the security footage to Fox. The Republicans are trying to claw back the findings of the House Jan. 6 investigation, which painstakingly documented, with testimony and video evidence, how Trump rallied his supporters to head to the Capitol and "fight like hell" as Congress was certifying his loss to Democrat Joe Biden.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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'The Whole Thing Seems Insane': New Documents on Fox and the Election (New York Times)

By **Jeremy W. Peters and Katie Robertson**

It had been more than a week since the news networks projected that Joseph R. Biden Jr. would become the next president. And Tucker Carlson, Sean Hannity and Laura Ingraham were at a loss about what to say on the air.

"What are we all going to do tmrw night?" Ms. Ingraham, the host of the 10 p.m. show on Fox News, asked her colleagues in a text message chain on Nov. 16, 2020.

Mr. Carlson responded that he planned to devote a significant chunk of his program to a little-known voting technology company that had become a target of Trump supporters who suspected the election had been rigged: Dominion Voting Systems.

"Haven't said a word about it so far," Mr. Carlson said, acknowledging that the conspiracy theories about Dominion's purported role in a fictitious plot to siphon away votes from President Donald J. Trump were making him uneasy.

Read more [here](#).

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Trump, DeSantis push court to revisit libel laws in Dominion case (AP)

By David Bauder Associated Press

Fox News is on an unlikely collision course with two leading contenders for the Republican presidential nomination over the rights of journalists.

In defending itself against a massive defamation lawsuit over how it covered false claims surrounding the 2020 presidential election, the network is relying on a nearly 60-year-old Supreme Court ruling that makes it difficult to successfully sue media organizations for libel.

Former President Donald Trump and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, two favorites of many Fox News viewers, have advocated for the court to revisit the standard, which is considered the foundational case in American defamation law.

Read more [here](#).

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Libel lawsuit over 'media men' list settled out of court (AP)

By HILLEL ITALIE and JOCELYN NOVECK

NEW YORK (AP) — An author-editor's libel lawsuit over allegations that he had committed sexual assault, widely cited as a prime example of backlash against the #MeToo movement, has been settled out of court. Stephen Elliott had filed the lawsuit in 2018 against writer Moira Donegan, who had organized a list of "s—tty media men."

A brief document filed last week by U.S. District Court in Eastern New York noted that the case had been "voluntarily dismissed," per agreement between the attorneys for Elliott and Donegan.

"I'm glad the lawsuit is over," Elliott, founding editor of the online publication The Rumpus and author of several works of fiction and nonfiction, told The Associated Press in an email Tuesday. "They were never able to find anyone to accuse me of anything remotely close to rape so I feel my name is cleared."

Efforts to reach Donegan, a columnist for The Guardian who has previously written for The New Republic, among others, were not immediately successful. And her attorneys did immediately respond to requests for comment. According to Elliott, Donegan

“gave me six figures and no apology, which I didn’t want anyway because what’s the point if they don’t mean it.”

Read more [here](#).

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Polish journalist wins US Women of Courage Award for Ukraine reporting (Notes from Poland)

Polish journalist Bianka Zalewska has won the Women of Courage Award for her work in Ukraine. She and ten other recipients will be presented with the honour at the White House tomorrow – on International Women’s Day – by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and First Lady Jill Biden.

Zalewska is a war correspondent who has been covering the conflict in Ukraine since it began in 2014. In that year she suffered life-threatening injuries when her press car came under fire from Russian-backed separatists in Luhansk.

“Mrs Zalewska remains unintimidated...in the face of disinformation campaigns and online threats personally aimed at her and her family and the risks of violence and injury during her frequent work inside Ukraine,” wrote the State Department, which has since 2007 been annually presenting the Women of Courage Awards.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - March 8, 2023



Today is Wednesday, March 8, the 67th day of 2023. There are 298 days left in the year.

Today’s highlight in history:

On March 8, 1965, the United States landed its first combat troops in South Vietnam as 3,500 Marines arrived to defend the U.S. air base at Da Nang.

On this date:

In 1618, German astronomer Johannes Kepler devised his third law of planetary motion.

In 1817, the New York Stock & Exchange Board, which had its beginnings in 1792, was formally organized; it later became known as the New York Stock Exchange.

In 1948, the Supreme Court, in *McCollum v. Board of Education*, struck down voluntary religious education classes in Champaign, Illinois, public schools, saying the program violated separation of church and state.

In 1971, Joe Frazier defeated Muhammad Ali by decision in what was billed as “The Fight of the Century” at Madison Square Garden in New York. Silent film comedian Harold Lloyd died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 77.

In 1983, in a speech to the National Association of Evangelicals convention in Orlando, Florida, President Ronald Reagan referred to the Soviet Union as an “evil empire.”

In 1988, 17 soldiers were killed when two Army helicopters from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, collided in mid-flight.

In 1999, baseball Hall of Famer Joe DiMaggio died in Hollywood, Florida, at age 84.

In 2000, President Bill Clinton submitted to Congress legislation to establish permanent normal trade relations with China. (The U.S. and China signed a trade pact in November 2000.)

In 2004, Iraq’s Governing Council signed a landmark interim constitution.

In 2008, President George W. Bush vetoed a bill that would have banned the CIA from using simulated drowning and other coercive interrogation methods to gain information from suspected terrorists.

In 2014, Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, a Boeing 777 with 239 people on board, vanished during a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, setting off a massive and ultimately unsuccessful search.

In 2016, Sir George Martin, the Beatles’ urbane producer who guided the band’s swift, historic transformation from rowdy club act to musical and cultural revolutionaries, died at age 90.

Ten years ago: The government reported the jobless rate dropped to 7.7 percent the previous month, the lowest level since President Barack Obama took office. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel arrived in Afghanistan for his first visit as Pentagon chief. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez was lauded at his state funeral as a modern-day reincarnation of Latin American liberator Simon Bolivar and a disciple of Cuba’s Fidel Castro.

Five years ago: U.S. and South Korean officials said President Donald Trump had agreed to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jung Un by the end of May to negotiate an end to North Korea's nuclear weapons program. Mississippi lawmakers passed one of the most restrictive abortion laws in the nation, making the procedure illegal in most cases after 15 weeks of pregnancy; a federal judge later struck down the law as unconstitutional. Serena Williams beat Zarina Diyas of Kazakhstan, 7-5, 6-3, in the first round of a tournament in Indian Wells, California; it was Williams' first match following a 14-month layoff for the birth of her daughter.

One year ago: President Joe Biden announced that the U.S. would ban all Russian oil imports, toughening the toll on Russia's economy in retaliation for its invasion of Ukraine as a humanitarian crisis unfolded in the port city of Mariupol. Guy Wesley Reffitt of Texas was convicted of storming the U.S. Capitol with a holstered handgun, a milestone victory for federal prosecutors in the first trial among hundreds of cases arising from the Jan. 6 riots.

Today's birthdays: Jazz musician George Coleman is 88. Actor Sue Ane (correct) Langdon is 87. College Football Hall of Famer Pete Dawkins is 85. Songwriter Carole Bayer Sager is 79. Actor-director Micky Dolenz (The Monkees) is 78. Singer-musician Randy Meisner is 77. Pop singer Peggy March is 75. Baseball Hall of Famer Jim Rice is 70. Jazz musician Billy Childs is 66. Singer Gary Numan is 65. NBC News anchor Lester Holt is 64. Actor Aidan Quinn is 64. Actor Camryn Manheim is 62. Actor Leon (no last name) is 62. Country-rock singer Shawn Mullins is 55. Neo-soul singer Van Hunt is 53. Actor Andrea Parker is 53. Actor Boris Kodjoe is 50. Actor Freddie Prinze Jr. is 47. Actor Laura Main is 46. Actor James Van Der Beek is 46. R&B singer Kameelah Williams (702) is 45. Actor Nick Zano is 45. Rock singer Tom Chaplin (Keane) is 44. Rock musician Andy Ross (OK Go) is 44. Actor Jessica Collins is 40. R&B singer Kristinia (kris-teh-NEE'-ah) DeBarge is 33.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking [Connecting Archive](#) in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in Kansas City.

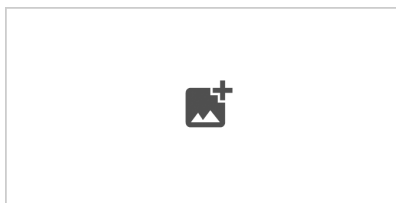
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to [Ye Olde Connecting Editor](#). And don't forget to include photos!



Here are some suggestions:

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

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