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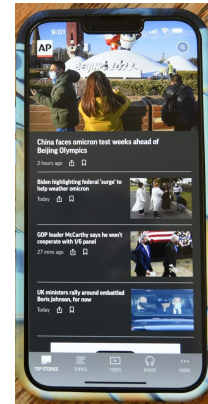
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# Connecting

March 9, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this March 9, 2023,

“Peaceful, orderly and meek”?

Our colleague **Robert Reid** would beg to differ with that description by Fox News commentator Tucker Carlson of the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

Now senior managing editor of Stars and Stripes after a distinguished 45-year career with the AP, Reid saw the events beginning to unfold that day and headed from his apartment to the Capitol, where he photographed what he saw and shared with his Connecting colleagues. His reaction to Carlson’s statement leads today’s issue.

**MY SPOTLIGHT** for March in my hometown Fort Dodge (Iowa) Messenger focused on Alyce Moss Flaherty, afflicted with polio at the age of 4 but who never let her disability deter her from her life’s mission of bringing light and love to all she met. “What will she be most remembered for? I think it would be her smile,” said her

husband, Mick Flaherty, of Alyce, who died Jan. 31 of cancer. “She always had a beautiful smile on her face. She was the kindest person. She’d want to get to know you. She was interested in people. When the time came for her to be cared for by hospice, she had the nicest smile on her face for all the hospice people who cared for her. They prayed for her, but she was also praying for them.”

Click [here](#) to read the story. You can also read it [here](#).

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul



## A ‘meek’ crowd at the Capitol? ‘That one threw me’



Photo by Robert Reid

**Robert Reid** - I hear Tucker Carlson called the crowd at the Jan. 6 Capitol attack mostly “peaceful, orderly and meek.” I was on the west side of the Capitol that day. I’ll grant him that many, perhaps even most, of the people I saw that day weren’t being violent. “Orderly,” well, maybe. But “meek?” That one threw me.

I’d been out on the streets that morning as a huge crowd assembled on the National Mall to hear President Trump press his claim of a stolen election but returned home to follow events on TV. When I saw that the crowd was marching on the Capitol, I raced down there to watch. Our apartment is only a 25-minute walk from the Capitol, and I wasn’t going to pass up the chance to watch history unfold.

As I approached the majestic, white building, I could hear what sounded like stun grenades exploding and the roar of a crowd shouting and cheering.

I’m a bit long in the tooth to be joining journalists like AP photographers John Minchillo and Julio Cortez at the tip of the spear. So instead I mingled with the crowd massed along First Street and the grounds leading uphill to the Capitol.

The atmosphere was electric. Many people were recording the scene on cell phones, while others waved flags and carried pro-Trump banners. The crowd was overwhelmingly, though not exclusively, White and with no shortage of gray hair. Demographically, I fit right in.

It was both ominous and, in some ways, farcical.

One group of Koreans joined the crowd, marching behind a middle-aged Korean woman waving a large South Korean flag. One aging Vietnamese even carried an old South Vietnamese flag.

A dozen or so people had scampered on the statues flanking the equestrian statue of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, waving Confederate flags only a few feet away from the memorial to the man who as much as anyone was responsible for destroying the Confederacy.

Those who weren't pressing forward to fight Capitol Police acted like fans at a football game - wearing the garb, waving the flags, cheering the tough guys but staying out of the fray. A thunderous cheer arose when a bald, middle-aged man, with a radio stuck to his ear, cried out, "they're inside, they're inside."

As he proclaimed the Capitol had been breached, I walked past two young men as one of them said "this is what we came for."

Meanwhile, a tall man with a bushy gray mullet stood on the retaining wall of the Capitol lawn with a bullhorn calling for volunteers to join the fighting.

"You want Trump to win," he asked the crowd. "Here's how you do it. You replace the people on the front line. That's how you win a war. You gotta push forward," as volunteers scrambled over the wall and headed toward the fray.

I didn't have a press card so decided not to try to enter the building, figuring at some point many of these people were going to be arrested. With crowds still marching toward the Capitol, I decided to follow the rest of the events on TV.

As I walked home, I passed a line of Trump supporters blocking a city police convoy that had been rushing down Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol. Rather than force their way through, the police cars turned away to find an alternate route.

Meek, you say? I hardly think so.

## Members or customers?

[Sue Johnson](#) - During my tenure as a bureau chief, the change was happening from both sides. We chiefs were under pressure to sell more services to members even as expanding corporate ownership meant newspapers were under pressure to cut costs.

The digital impact on newspaper revenue was already well underway. And the cost-cutting impact of corporate ownership also saw members become less inclined to share content beyond their own groups.

Chiefs were no longer seen as partner/consultants to help papers improve. Newspapers were struggling to survive and, as one of my editors noted, we became “just another vendor.”

Since then, newspapers have become thin remnants of their former selves and I am not even a little surprised that “customers” is now the term used.

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[Keith Robinson](#) - Re: The ongoing discussion as to whether AP members are “customers.”

I recall that in my final years with the AP – the late 2000s – headquarters began to encourage staff to think of members as customers because the AP could lose members just as any business could lose customers if they are not treated well.

This was an effort to get staff to treat members with more courtesy and respect when editors called bureaus with requests or questions. As a bureau chief, I sometimes got complaints from editors about some staffers being rude to them on the phone. (I am sure other bureau managers did, too.) So, the reasoning went, if we thought of members as customers, we might better appreciate them.

## Shades of a 1931 movie





[Adolphe Bernotas](#) - As I read AP stories in my local paper about Fox News problems with facts, I glanced at the TV, which had just begun a 1931 movie, Five Star Final, described as "a sensationalistic newspaper causes tragedy for several innocent people with ruthless reporting and distorted facts."

## Connecting moon shots

*New Jersey...*



**Dan Day** – This shows the moon rising over a park in Pennington, New Jersey, the other evening. The moon was one day short of being full.

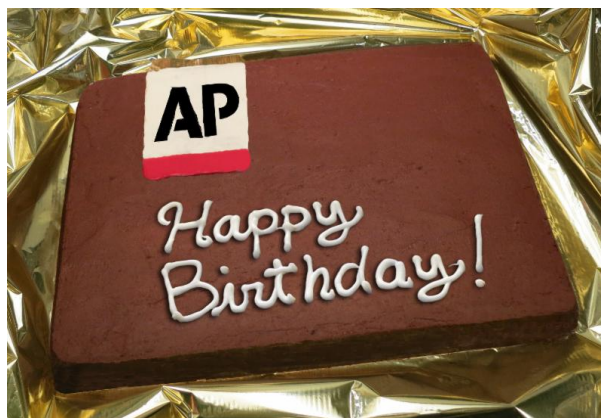
## *Washington State...*



**Greg Halling** - Full Worm Moon over a pear orchard, Yakima, Washington (March 2023).

# Connecting wishes Happy Birthday





[David Kennerly](#)

## Stories of interest

*These are the pioneering women of photojournalism*  
(CNN)



Frances Benjamin Johnston is surrounded by children looking at her camera. Johnston was one of the first-ever female photojournalists, working for the Bain News Service that was founded in New York City in 1898. Her career spanned 60 years and included



working in the White House for several administrations. She is also known for her photos of architecture, including historic buildings in the South. Library of Congress

Photojournalism has traditionally been a male-dominated field.

But throughout history, women have made their mark on the industry.

Yunghi Kim is one of them, and she wants to make sure her peers get the recognition they deserve. Especially those who started their career in the film era, before the advent of the digital camera.

"They were courageous. They were fearless," she said. "And they were trailblazers because they were in a sea of men."

Kim says there is a "silent generation" of women photojournalists who are often overlooked. Maybe their work was never digitized. Maybe their work is sitting right now in the basements of newspapers, magazines and photo agencies, buried in an archive they can't access and may never be able to.

So Kim took it upon herself to do something about it. She started a website, Trailblazers of Light, to honor these pioneers of photojournalism.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***White House Rebukes Tucker Carlson Over Portrayal of Jan. 6 Attack*** (New York Times)

By Michael M. Grynbaum

In an unusual broadside against a major conservative television star, the Biden administration on Wednesday directly criticized the Fox News host Tucker Carlson over his on-air portrayal of the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol as a largely peaceful event, a depiction the White House deemed "false."

"We agree with the chief of the Capitol Police and the wide range of bipartisan lawmakers who have condemned this false depiction of the unprecedented, violent attack on our Constitution and the rule of law — which cost police officers their lives," a deputy White House press secretary, Andrew J. Bates, said in a statement.

"We also agree with what Fox News's own attorneys and executives have now repeatedly stressed in multiple courts of law: that Tucker Carlson is not credible," Mr. Bates added.

The latter part of the statement referred to revelations from the \$1.6 billion defamation lawsuit filed by Dominion Voting Systems against Fox News, which has led to the disclosure of extraordinary private communications among the network's hosts and executives.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

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## ***Court records show political pressure behind Fox programming*** (AP)

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI and DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — In May 2018, the nation’s top Republicans needed help. So they called on the founder of Fox News, Rupert Murdoch.

President Donald Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell were trying to stop West Virginia Republicans from nominating Don Blankenship, who had been convicted of violating mine safety standards during a lethal accident in one of his coal mines, to challenge the state’s incumbent senator, Democrat Joe Manchin.

“Both Trump and McConnell are appealing for help to beat unelectable former mine owner who served time,” Murdoch wrote to executives at Fox News, according to court records released this week. “Anything during day helpful, but Sean (Hannity) and Laura (Ingraham) dumping on him hard might save the day.”

Murdoch’s prodding, revealed in court documents that are part of a defamation lawsuit by a voting systems company, is one example showing how Fox became actively involved in politics instead of simply reporting or offering opinions about it. The revelations pose a challenge to the credibility of the most watched cable news network in the U.S. at the outset of a new election season in which Trump is again a leading player, having declared his third run for the White House.

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

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## ***Lawsuit against Fox shows the news behind the Trump news*** (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Fresh revelations flowing from a major defamation lawsuit are shedding light on what was happening inside Fox News following the 2020 presidential election. Here are some things to know about the case.

### **THE CASE**

Dominion Voting Systems is suing Fox for \$1.6 billion, claiming the news outlet repeatedly aired allegations that the company engaged in fraud that doomed President Donald Trump’s re-election campaign while knowing they were untrue. Fox

contends that it was reporting newsworthy charges made by supporters of the president and is supported legally by libel standards. The case is scheduled for trial next month.

## ELECTION DISCONNECT

Dominion has produced evidence that prominent people at Fox knew the fraud allegations were untrue, even as they and the president's allies were given airtime to repeat them. Fox's Sean Hannity said in a deposition that he did not believe the fraud claims "for one second," but he wanted to give accusers the chance to produce evidence. Fox founder Rupert Murdoch, questioned under oath, agreed the 2020 presidential election was free and fair: "The election was not stolen," he said. Murdoch also said he was aware some Fox commentators — Lou Dobbs, Maria Bartiromo, Jeanine Pirro and Hannity — at times endorsed false claims, but he did nothing to stop them.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***New Copyright Claims Board Rules in Favor of Photographer in First Case*** (PetaPixel)

By MATT GROWCOOT

The Copyright Claims Board (CCB) has made its first final decision with a photographer awarded \$1,000 for a copyright infringement.

In a judgment on February 28, 2023, the CCB ruled in favor of the plaintiff, David Oppenheimer, who sued a lawyer named Douglas Prutton for using one of his photographs on his website without permission.

The CCB was set up in 2021 to help small copyright infringement claims of lower value giving photographers an alternative to hiring pricey copyright attorneys who generally balk at smaller monetary payouts of this kind.

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

## The Final Word

# Its Natonial Prooofreding Da! y!



National Proofreading Day, celebrated each year on March 8, is a day to promote error-free writing. Shared by Len Iwanski.

## Today in History - March 9, 2023





**Today is Thursday, March 9, the 68th day of 2023. There are 297 days left in the year.**

**Today's highlight in history:**

On March 9, 1933, Congress, called into special session by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, began its "hundred days" of enacting New Deal legislation.

**On this date:**

In 1796, the future emperor of the French, Napoleon Bonaparte, married Josephine de Beauharnais (boh-ahr-NAY'). (The couple later divorced.)

In 1841, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *United States v. The Amistad*, ruled 7-1 in favor of a group of illegally enslaved Africans who were captured off the U.S. coast after seizing control of a Spanish schooner, *La Amistad*; the justices ruled that the Africans should be set free.

In 1862, during the Civil War, the ironclads *USS Monitor* and *CSS Virginia* (formerly *USS Merrimac*) clashed for five hours to a draw at Hampton Roads, Virginia.

In 1916, more than 400 Mexican raiders led by Pancho Villa (VEE'-uh) attacked Columbus, New Mexico, killing 18 Americans. During the First World War, Germany declared war on Portugal.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. B-29 bombers began launching incendiary bomb attacks against Tokyo, resulting in an estimated 100,000 deaths.

In 1964, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *New York Times Co. v. Sullivan*, raised the standard for public officials to prove they'd been libeled in their official capacity by news organizations.

In 1976, a cable car in the Italian ski resort of Cavalese fell some 700 feet to the ground when a supporting line snapped, killing 43 people.

In 1987, Chrysler Corp. announced it had agreed to buy the financially ailing American Motors Corp.

In 1989, the Senate rejected President George H.W. Bush's nomination of John Tower to be defense secretary by a vote of 53-47. (The next day, Bush tapped Wyoming Rep. Dick Cheney, who went on to win unanimous Senate approval.)

In 1997, rapper The Notorious B.I.G. (Christopher Wallace) was killed in a still-unsolved drive-by shooting in Los Angeles; he was 24.

In 2000, John McCain suspended his presidential campaign, conceding the Republican nomination to George W. Bush. Bill Bradley ended his presidential bid, conceding the Democratic nomination to Vice President Al Gore.

In 2020, global stock markets and oil prices plunged, reflecting mounting alarm over the impact of the coronavirus. An alarmingly sharp slide at the opening bell on Wall

Street triggered the first automatic halt in trading in more than two decades; the Dow industrials finished nearly 8% lower.

Ten years ago: During U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel's first trip to Afghanistan as defense chief, two suicide bombings, one outside the Afghan Defense Ministry and the other near a police checkpoint in eastern Khost province, killed at least 19 people.

Five years ago: A combat veteran who'd been expelled from a treatment program at a California veterans home fatally shot three mental health workers there before taking his own life. Weeks after the shooting that left 17 people dead at a Florida high school, Gov. Rick Scott signed a school-safety bill that included new restrictions on guns, prompting a lawsuit from the National Rifle Association; the bill raised to 21 the minimum age to buy rifles and created a program enabling some teachers and other school employees to carry guns. Martin Shkreli, the former pharmaceutical CEO who'd been vilified for jacking up the price of a lifesaving drug, was sentenced in New York to seven years in prison for securities fraud.

One year ago: A Russian airstrike devastated a maternity hospital in the besieged Ukrainian port city of Mariupol and wounded at least 17 people. Police and soldiers rushed to evacuate victims, carrying out a heavily pregnant and bleeding woman on a stretcher. A Maryland hospital said the first person to receive a heart transplant from a pig died, two months after the groundbreaking experiment. Scientists said they had found the sunken wreck of polar explorer Ernest Shackleton's ship Endurance, more than a century after it was lost to the Antarctic ice.

Today's birthdays: Former Sen. James L. Buckley is 100. Actor Joyce Van Patten is 89. Actor Trish Van Devere is 82. Singer-musician John Cale (The Velvet Underground) is 81. Singer Mark Lindsay (Paul Revere and the Raiders) is 81. Former ABC anchorman Charles Gibson is 80. Rock musician Robin Trower is 78. Singer Jeffrey Osborne is 75. Country musician Jimmie Fadden (The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band) is 75. Actor Jaime Lyn Bauer is 74. Magazine editor Michael Kinsley is 72. TV newscaster Faith Daniels is 66. Actor Linda Fiorentino is 65. Actor Tom Amandes is 64. Actor-director Lonny Price is 64. Country musician Rusty Hendrix (Confederate Railroad) is 63. Actor Juliette Binoche is 59. Rock musician Robert Sledge (Ben Folds Five) is 55. Rock musician Shannon Leto (30 Seconds to Mars) is 53. Rapper C-Murder (AKA C-Miller) is 52. Actor Emmanuel Lewis is 52. Actor Jean Louisa Kelly is 51. Actor Kerr Smith is 51. Actor Oscar Isaac is 44. Comedian Jordan Klepper (TV: "The Daily Show") is 44. Rapper Chingy is 43. Actor Matthew Gray Gubler is 43. Rock musician Chad Gilbert (New Found Glory) is 42. NHL defenseman Brent Burns is 38. Actor Brittany Snow is 37. Rapper Bow Wow is 36. Rapper YG is 33. Actor Cierra Ramirez is 28. U.S. Olympic gold-medal-winning gymnast Sunisa Lee is 20.

## 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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