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Connecting - July 18, 2017

1 message

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Tue, Jul 18, 2017 at 8:35 AM

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July 18, 2017

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AP: Health Bill Collapses Leaves Divided GOP at Crossroads



Capitol Hill police officers prepare to arrest a group protesting the republican healthcare bill outside the offices of Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev., on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday, July 17, 2017. The Senate has been forced to put the Republican's health care bill on hold for as much as two weeks until Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., can return from surgery. Andrew Harnik AP Photo

BY ALAN FRAM AND ERICA WERNER

WASHINGTON (AP) The implosion of the Senate Republican health care bill leaves a divided GOP with its flagship legislative priority in tatters and confronts a wounded President Donald Trump and congressional leaders with dicey decisions about addressing their perhaps unattainable seven-year-old promise of repealing President Barack Obama's law.

Two GOP senators - Utah's Mike Lee and Jerry Moran of Kansas - sealed the measure's doom late Monday when each announced they would vote "no" in an initial, critical vote that had been expected as soon as next week. Their startling, tandem announcement meant that at least four of the 52 GOP senators were ready to block the measure - two more than Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., had to spare in the face of a wall of Democratic opposition.

"Regretfully, it is now apparent that the effort to repeal and immediately replace the failure of Obamacare will not be successful," McConnell said in a late evening statement that essentially waved a white flag.

It was the second stinging setback on the issue in three weeks for McConnell, whose reputation as a legislative mastermind has been marred as he's failed to unite his chamber's Republicans behind a health overhaul package that's highlighted jagged divides between conservatives and moderates. In late June, he abandoned an initial package after he lacked enough GOP support to pass.

The episode has also been jarring for Trump, whose intermittent lobbying and nebulous, often contradictory descriptions of what he's wanted have shown he has limited clout with senators. That despite a determination by Trump, McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., to demonstrate that a GOP running the White House and Congress can govern effectively.

Now, McConnell said, the Senate would vote on a measure the GOP-run Congress approved in 2015, only to be vetoed by Obama - a bill repealing much of Obama's statute, with a two-year delay designed to give lawmakers time to enact a replacement. Trump embraced that idea last month after an initial version of McConnell's bill collapsed due under Republican divisions, and did so again late Monday.

"Republicans should just REPEAL failing ObamaCare now & work on a new Healthcare Plan that will start from a clean slate. Dems will join in!" Trump tweeted.

But the prospects for approving a clean repeal bill followed by work on replacement legislation, even with Trump ready to sign it, seemed shaky. Trump and party leaders had started this year embracing that strategy, only to abandon it when it seemed incapable of passing Congress, with many Republicans worried it would cause insurance market and political chaos because of uncertainty that they would approve substitute legislation.

Read more [here](#).

Tentative Pact Averts NPR News Strike (Variety July 15)

Management of National Public Radio and SAG-AFTRA have reached a tentative three-year deal, averting a possible strike by more than 400 of NPR's news and programming employees.

The deal was announced late Saturday night near the end of a 24-hour extension of the expiration. NPR employees had announced Friday evening that nearly 300 of them had agreed to a request to the SAG-AFTRA national board to approve a strike authorization.

SAG-AFTRA could have called a strike within a few days had the talks not progressed on Saturday. The announcement said that that the union's leadership will recommend the deal to the NPR staffers it represents.

Read more [here](#). From Adolphe Bernotas ([Email](#)).

Battle Erupts Between Local, National Outlets re Big Tech (Axios July 18)

The Local Media Consortium is firing back at the National Media Alliance for its op-ed calling for collective government action against the Google and Facebook duopoly, saying it views the tech industry "as partners, not adversaries."

The consortium represents dozens of local papers and media companies, like The Seattle Times, The McClatchy Company and Cox Media Group.

The leader of the group, Rusty Coats, argues in a letter to their membership that News Media Alliance, which represents bigger papers like The New York Times and Wall Street Journal, ignores their work forging essential partnerships with tech companies and demonstrates "a lack of knowledge" for the tens of millions of dollars that they've netted in partnering with Google.

Google's response to both sides has remained the same: "We want to help news publishers succeed as they transition to digital."

AP Master Class: Getting Newsrooms Ready for Artificial Intelligence

By The Associated Press

Watch our discussion from the GEN Summit on how to incorporate artificial intelligence into your reporting or content, including strategy design tips and a case study on how automation is already being implemented.

Global Business Editor Lisa Gibbs and Strategy Manager Francesco Marconi presented "Is your newsroom ready for artificial intelligence?" at the GEN Summit in Vienna last month, discussing how journalists can incorporate the emerging technology into their reporting.

The agenda for the master class included:

- Overview: The applications of AI in newsrooms
- Designing your AI strategy
- Key editorial concerns in augmented journalism
- Case study: Automation deep dive
- Q&A

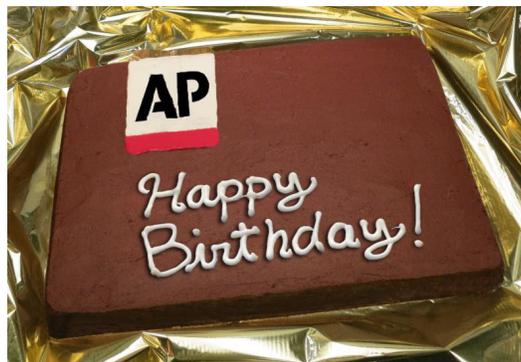
Watch the class via the above video, and be sure to read our related report, "The future of augmented journalism: A guide for newsrooms in the age of smart machines," by filling out the form below. Read more [here](#)

Connecting Mailbox



Can you identify The AP's Secret Santa? Who was this bearded man who delighted staffers at 50 Rock (including Claudia DeMartino) in probably 1981? The first reader to correctly identify the jolly old elf will receive a FREE one-year subscription to Connecting and the undying admiration of peers. [Tell Connecting](#) and we'll reveal the answer next week.

Happy Birthday



17 Michael Weinfield ([Email](#))
18 Bill Welch - ([Email](#))

Today in History

By The Associated Press



Today is Tuesday, July 18, the 199th day of 2017. There are 166 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 18, 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed a Presidential Succession Act which placed the speaker of the House and the Senate president pro tempore next in the line of succession after the vice president.

On this date:

In A.D. 64, the Great Fire of Rome began, consuming most of the city for about a week. (Some blamed the fire on Emperor Nero, who in turn blamed Christians.)

In 1536, the English Parliament passed an act declaring the authority of the pope void in England.

In 1792, American naval hero John Paul Jones died in Paris at age 45.

In 1817, English novelist Jane Austen died in Winchester at age 41.

In 1927, Ty Cobb hit safely for the 4,000th time in his career during a game between the Philadelphia Athletics (his new team) and the Detroit Tigers (his old one) at Navin Field. (The Tigers won, 5-3.)

In 1932, the United States and Canada signed a treaty to develop the St. Lawrence Seaway.

In 1944, Hideki Tojo was removed as Japanese premier and war minister because of setbacks suffered by his country in World War II. American forces in France captured the Normandy town of St. Lo.

In 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Soviet Premier Nikolai Bulganin, British Prime Minister Anthony Eden and French Premier Edgar Faure held a summit in Geneva.

In 1969, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., left a party on Chappaquiddick Island near Martha's Vineyard with Mary Jo Kopechne (koh-PEHK'-nee), 28; some time

later, Kennedy's car went off a bridge into the water. Kennedy was able to escape, but Kopechne drowned.

In 1976, 14-year-old Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci, competing at the Montreal Olympics, received the first-ever perfect score of 10 with her routine on uneven parallel bars. (Comaneci would go on to receive six more 10s in Montreal.)

In 1984, gunman James Huberty opened fire at a McDonald's fast food restaurant in San Ysidro (ee-SEE'-droh), California, killing 21 people before being shot dead by police. Walter F. Mondale won the Democratic presidential nomination in San Francisco.

In 1994, a bomb hidden in a van destroyed a Jewish cultural center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 85. Tutsi rebels declared an end to Rwanda's 14-week-old civil war.

Ten years ago: Senate Republicans torpedoed legislation to force the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Iraq. An underground steam pipe exploded on a New York City street, swallowing a tow truck and claiming the life of a woman who suffered a heart attack. Armed men kidnapped two Germans and five Afghans working on a dam project in central Afghanistan. (One of the Germans, Ruediger Diedrich, was found shot dead three days later; the others were later released.) Opera tenor Jerry Hadley, 55, died at a hospital in Poughkeepsie, New York, a week after shooting himself with an air rifle.

Five years ago: Rebels penetrated the heart of Syria's power elite, detonating a bomb inside a high-level crisis meeting in Damascus that killed three leaders of the regime, including President Bashar Assad's brother-in-law and the defense minister. A bus bombing at the Burgas airport in Bulgaria killed five Israeli tourists, the bus driver and the suspected perpetrator.

One year ago: Republicans opened their national convention in Cleveland as they prepared to nominate Donald Trump for president; Trump's wife, Melania, delivered a speech in which she assured delegates and voters that her husband had the character and determination to unite a divided nation. (Mrs. Trump's well-received address was marred by two passages with similarities to a speech first lady Michelle Obama delivered at the 2008 Democratic convention; a speechwriter accepted responsibility for the passages in question.) President Barack Obama awarded the Medal of Honor to retired Lt. Col. Charles Kettles, a helicopter pilot in the Vietnam War credited with helping rescue more than 40 American soldiers under heavy fire. A 17-year-old Afghan asylum-seeker wounded five people with an ax before being killed by police near the German city of Wuerzburg in an attack claimed by the Islamic State group.

Today's Birthdays: Skating champion and commentator Dick Button is 88. Olympic gold medal figure skater Tenley Albright is 82. Movie director Paul Verhoeven is 79. Musician Brian Auger is 78. Singer Dion DiMucci is 78. Actor James Brolin is 77. Baseball Hall of Famer Joe Torre is 77. Singer Martha Reeves is 76. Pop-rock musician Wally Bryson (The Raspberries) is 68. Country-rock singer Craig Fuller (Pure Prairie League) is 68. Business mogul Richard Branson is 67. Actress Margo Martindale is 66. Singer Ricky Skaggs is 63. Actress Audrey Landers is 61. World Golf Hall of Famer Nick Faldo is 60. Rock musician Nigel Twist (The Alarm) is 59. Actress Anne-Marie Johnson is 57. Actress Elizabeth McGovern is 56. Rock musician John Hermann (Widespread Panic) is 55. Rock musician Jack Irons is 55.

Talk show host-actress Wendy Williams is 53. Actor Vin Diesel is 50. Actor Grant Bowler is 49. Retired NBA All-Star Penny Hardaway is 46. Bluegrass musician Jesse Brock (The Gibson Brothers) is 45. Alt-country singer Elizabeth Cook is 45. Actor Eddie Matos is 45. MLB All-Star Torii Hunter is 42. Dance music singer-songwriter M.I.A. is 42. Rock musician Daron Malakian (System of a Down; Scars on Broadway) is 42. Rock musician Tony Fagenson (Eve 6) is 39. Movie director Jared Hess is 38. Actor Jason Weaver is 38. Actress Kristen Bell is 37. Actor Michiel Huisman (MIHK'-heel HOWS'-man) is 36. Rock singer Ryan Cabrera is 35. Actress Priyanka Chopra is 35. Christian-rock musician Aaron Gillespie (Underoath) is 34. Actor Chace Crawford is 32. Actor James Norton is 32. Musician Paul Kowert (Punch Brothers) is 31. Actor Travis Milne is 31. Bluegrass musician Joe Dean Jr. (Dailey & Vincent) is 28.

Thought for Today: "It isn't what we say or think that defines us, but what we do." - From "Sense and Sensibility" by Jane Austen (1775-1817).

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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