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~ Harry S. Truman

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March 27, 2020

Fierce Wireless
T-Mobile seeks OK to use 2.5 GHz in Philadelphia

ACA Connects, which represents small and midsized cable and broadband operators, said it will not reschedule its policy summit, which had been scheduled for March 17-19 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington before the coronavirus pandemic hit.

Allentown Morning Call
How does Pat Toomey reconcile career built on fiscal conservatism with massive coronavirus relief bill?

Washington Post
Here's how tech is keeping us sane while we stay home

The Hill
Real ID deadline delayed one year amid coronavirus pandemic

Philadelphia Inquirer
No, a new lawsuit doesn't say Pa. registered the dead to vote

Hollywood Reporter
Game Companies, Esports Organizations Host Online Events to Support Coronavirus Fight

Gizmodo
Android Apps May Be Snooping on You More Than You Realize

Light Reading
CableLabs preparing to take DOCSIS 4.0 to the test

Fierce Video
TV antenna use surges amid coronavirus outbreak

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review
Editorial: Pennsylvania

The association said it would decide "later" if there was some way to get its members to D.C. later in the year for Capitol Hill visits and a "mini-summit" of some type, but that making it clear now that there would not be a delayed full summit was the right thing to do.

"We made the right decision early on to postpone the Summit for the health and safety of our members and attendees, and this is another decision that we believe is the best thing for our members and attendees at this time," ACA Connects president Matt Polka said. ""We look forward to our Summit 2021 program when we can be back in Washington, D.C., with our members and attendees."

ACAC said it was working to get refunds for registered attendees, sponsor and exhibitors—it expected about 300 to have gathered for the event -- **ACA Connects news release**

Maine has enacted a law that supporters said would expand access to broadband in underserved parts of the state.

The proposal from Democratic Sen. Shenna Bellows is intended to make it easier for communities to get planning grants for broadband. Maine Democrats said the changes will also make it easier to identify parts of Maine where the state needs to invest in better access to high-speed internet.

Democratic Gov. Janet Mills signed the proposal into law on March 18. It requires the state's ConnectME authority to collect important data annually, Democrats said. It also changes the authority's planning grant structure to allow for more flexibility and take away barriers to the planning process, they said.

The authority will also be renamed ConnectMaine. The changes go into effect on June 16. -- **Associated Press**

At some point over the past decade or so, the phone call became the redheaded stepchild of communication. It's been dubbed inefficient, interruptive, and even rude. But now, in the era of social distancing, people are using the phone again to call friends and relatives. What's more, the people they're calling are actually picking up.

"I have always hated talking on the phone," says Maggie McGowan, a 27-year-old Ph.D. candidate studying English in San Diego.

Ms. McGowan says her aversion to the phone was so strong that friends used to make fun of her for it: Friends would sometimes call her three times in a row and she still wouldn't answer, sometimes sending them a message in response to ask why they couldn't just text. But while being isolated these past couple of weeks, she discovered that the phone was a good way to kill time during vast stretches of boredom.

"I think it was kind of like a slow creep," Ms. McGowan says. She started checking in with her mom, and soon found herself on the phone with others. She estimates she has called five people she is close to between 5 and 20 times each. "Now, whenever anyone calls me I pick up, and then I'm on the phone for anywhere from 45 minutes to 2½ hours. It's quite a 180," she says.

primary and coronavirus

I've been experiencing some of this firsthand. Ever since shelter-in-place orders started to be adopted in major cities, multiple friends have called me at random. They're no longer texting me first to ask if it's a good time. They just call out of the blue. And I've started picking up the phone anytime it rings, even if it's an unknown number: What if someone is trying to reach me from a work cell I don't have saved in my contacts? Besides, what else is there to do? I've unwittingly answered no fewer than four robocalls in the past week.

By the time last week rolled around, I was tired of texting back and forth with a guy I'd met through a dating app. I finally just called him. He answered.

Data shows that people all over the U.S. are doing the same thing. [Verizon](#) says it has seen an average of 800 million wireless calls daily on recent weekdays, nearly twice the volume of Mother's Day.

And we're not just calling people more often, we're talking on the phone for longer: [AT&T](#) says that wireless voice minutes on Monday were up 39% from the average Monday, and Wi-Fi calling minutes were 78% higher.

Thanks to coronavirus, we're no longer in transit, unable to answer a call. We're not physically in the office so, sure, why not jump on the phone to catch up with a friend or colleague between work tasks? There's no stepping out for lunch, no "Let's just cover this in person next time we see one another," because we don't actually know when that will be.

Pretty much the only reason you can't reach someone these days is because they're on another call.

We're also feeling more isolated and increasingly concerned about the people we love. We want to check in with them more regularly. Texts can be cold and quick; a call is really one of the few ways others can hear the concern in your voice—and you can hear the concern in theirs. And if you haven't yet changed out of your pajamas or washed your hair in a few days, phone calls beat video chats hands down.

Omari Rush, 39, says he's even making phone calls for work, in addition to using his regular remote-office tools, such as Slack or Zoom.

"We'll be typing via Slack and I'm like wait, wait, just pick up the phone," says Mr. Rush, who lives in Ann Arbor, Mich., and runs an arts nonprofit. "I'm like remembering the phone as a real resource for quick communication, and now really relying on it."

In his personal life too, Mr. Rush is also back on the phone. The other day he called up a friend he's known for years.

"I don't know if I'd had a rough day. I think I just wanted to talk," he says.

In the middle of the conversation, Mr. Rush says he and his friend both noticed something: They'd never really spoken on the phone before. "It was bananas," he says. "We've been friends for 15 years." -- **Wall Street Journal**

State Rep. Stephanie Borowicz, a Clinton County culture warrior who has drawn national attention for her strident deployment of religion in government proceedings, called this week in a House resolution for "a state day of humiliation, fasting and prayer" Monday due to "the pandemic of 2020."

The internet, predictably, was not impressed. The freshman GOP legislator's resolution was forwarded to the State Government Committee, where ranking Democrat Kevin Boyle of Philadelphia called it "the stupidest resolution I've ever seen a politician introduce."

Lt. Gov. John Fetterman, also a Democrat, agreed with Boyle, adding, "If it's not, it'll do [until] the stupidest one gets here."

Borowicz, who did not respond to Clout's hails, cites a similar move by President Abraham Lincoln on April 30, 1863, while the Civil War raged. Indeed, Borowicz cribbed most of her resolution's language from a proclamation by Honest Abe.

"Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!" both documents say. -- **Chris Brennan's "Clout" column in Philadelphia Daily News**

