

Kansas City Star
[‘This makes no sense’: How Google Fiber left Kansas City customers in dark 11 days after storm](#)

USA Today
[Remind, Verizon settle dispute, allowing customers to continue receiving SMS messages](#)

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
[In Pa’s 37th senate district, Dems recommend Pam Iovino, GOP nominates D. Raja](#)

Philadelphia Daily News
[We ended \(for now\) the government shutdown, let’s end \(for good\) the State of the Union Address](#)

PennLive
[Thoughts on Pennsylvania’s Lieutenant Governor duties from former Democratic Lt. Gov. Mark Singel, and GOP strategist Charlie Gerow](#)

Back in 1996, the prospect of doing television coverage of Groundhog Day in Punxsutawney held as much mystery and intrigue as a voyage to another planet. Who is Phil, anyway? Is he a real groundhog? Does he live here in Pennsylvania? And what’s the deal with his shadow?

Brian Lockman, the president of PCN, had concerns. Gently, he asked a fairly pointed question. “What are you gonna do there in Punxsutawney?” “I don’t know,” I said in a helpless monotone, “but I have a camera and a microphone, and that’s all I need to take there.”

After Phil made his forecast, I drove back to PCN studios. I’d like to say I returned with the swagger of a conquering army, but I kind of tip-toed into the building. Someone asked, “How’d it go?” “I ... don’t ... know,” came the answer without reassurance. I paused. “They danced and sang until the groundhog came out. He made his forecast, then everyone left.” Nobody was terribly impressed with my story. But we gambled and put it on the air that evening. And it was a hit! Particularly with adults who looked on with amusement at the antics of the youngsters in the frigid temperatures.

In 2019, we’ll have multiple cameras in Punxsutawney. Television networks all over the world use PCN’s video to show an event that’s hard to top for its peculiar, universal charm. I like to say we’re the “unofficial network of the Groundhog,” mainly because nobody feels like arguing. Join PCN for Phil’s Groundhog Day Prognostication LIVE, February 2nd. Watch for a special meeting with the Groundhog Club and a visit to Phil’s home at 5 AM! Then, watch our LIVE coverage on cable and stream with the PCN App beginning at 6 AM. Catch the re-air of Groundhog Day, which will include interviews with curious revelers, at 2 PM. – **PCN**

The Federal Communications Commission is taking new steps in response to erroneous posts that were made under the names of Republican Sen. Pat Toomey and millions of other Americans. Toomey and Democratic Sen. Jeff Merkley [wrote to FCC Chairman Ajit Pai in May](#), stating that their names were used to post comments on undoing net neutrality rules, which require internet service providers to treat all web content equally.

Toomey supported that rule change, but the comment attributed to him opposed the pending rule. Merkley, an opponent of the rule, was portrayed as supporting it. They weren’t the only victims of erroneous impersonation, according to a June 6 response from Pai. “It is troubling that some bad actors submitted comments using false names,” Pai wrote to the senators. “Indeed, like you, comments were submitted in my name and my wife’s name that reflect viewpoints we do not hold.”

Pai said the commission plans to “rebuild and re-engineer” its online comment system. It is seeking funding to add “appropriate safeguards against abusive conduct,” such as adding CAPTCHA or a similar mechanism to prevent bots from submitting comments. The commission chairman was unable to answer some of the senators’ questions, including whether any of the fake comments were submitted by foreign governments or how many may have originated from bots. The fake comments could potentially involve violations of criminal law, but Pai wrote that any investigation would be up to law enforcement officials. – **Allentown Morning Call**

Philadelphia Inquirer
Top Pa. Senate Democrats knew of allegation against Sen. Daylin Leach months before launching investigation

Associated Press
Women make big gains in state capitols, but men still hold most top posts

Philadelphia Inquirer
Editorial: PUC takes a step toward helping more people afford to heat their homes

An electricity cooperative is expanding broadband internet services in rural parts of northern Indiana, setting the stage for possible economic growth in the region. Tipmont REMC is rolling out high-speed internet services in Tippecanoe County and the rural towns of Romney, New Richmond and Linden.

The cooperative aims to bring broadband internet to its nearly 24,000 members, with the first expansion set to bring the service to 1,200 members in Linden, Tipmont spokesman Rob Ford told the **Journal & Courier**. "There's a term that we refer to as fundamental fairness," Ford said. "The idea that regardless of where you live you should have access to the same tools, the same essential services." A lack of a decent broadband connection can keep people from moving to rural areas, said Ron Holcomb, Tipmont's president and CEO. "Especially for the younger folks, a lot of their economic well-being is tied to that," he said. "And it drives them out of rural areas because they can't compete and survive in that environment."

A Purdue University study released last year found that Indiana could see \$12 billion in net benefits with statewide investment in broadband. That study analyzed the statewide benefits from rural broadband installed by Rural Electric Member Cooperatives. Those benefits include telemedicine, education, business investment, consumer savings and farm income changes. The study also found that Indiana could also see increased tax collections and decreased medical costs by expanding rural broadband. "It goes to show you that if you make the right kind of investment, people will leverage that investment and they'll get a lot out of it," Holcomb said. — **Associated Press**

Facebook Inc. is planning a dedicated effort to fend off interference in the European Union's parliamentary election campaign this spring, part of a broader effort at the social media giant to defend against politically motivated interference. The effort is one of the largest and most complex tests of the company's response to alleged Russian interference in the U.S.'s 2016 presidential election.

Facebook also said early Monday it would take additional steps to guard against the spread of fake news and misinformation on its platform in coming elections, including creating a searchable database of political ads. The move comes as the company looks to counter the controversy over its role in disseminating fake news and political ads in the 2016 presidential elections. The Menlo Park, Calif. company has **faced a barrage of criticism** about its data privacy practices and role in fanning violence in politically **volatile countries such as Myanmar**.

The company said in a blog post it is rolling out additional tools to help prevent foreign interference and to make political advertising more transparent. Advertisers will have to be authorized to purchase political ads. It is also creating a library of political and issues advertisements that will include details including the budget, number of people reached and demographic data on the people it reached. The database will be searchable for up to seven years.

In Brussels, Nick Clegg, the former British politician hired by Facebook last year, said in speech here that the company will this spring begin imposing restrictions on electoral and issue-based Facebook ads in Europe similar to those it applied in the run up to last year's midterm election in the U.S. They will require the disclosure of who pays for each such ad, and include in a searchable database showing demographic info about to whom each was shown.

Two regional operations centers will be set up in its Dublin and Singapore offices to act as hubs to coordinate and respond to fake news, hate speech and voter suppression across multiple countries. The company said it would house experts from Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp to work cross-functionally on these issues. The company **opened a similar office in its California headquarters** last year.

The effort comes amid growing concerns in Europe that Russia or other foreign actors will seek to sway national votes in which euroskeptic, antiestablishment and extremist candidates are expected to win unprecedented support. Mr. Clegg said Facebook's new policies are a result of the **company's realization** that it had been too slow to respond to misuse of its tools in 2016, when Russian propagandists **purchased thousands of targeted Facebook ads**. "We've learned hard lessons," Mr. Clegg said in a speech before.

Earlier this month, Facebook said it had removed about 500 pages and accounts linked to what it said were two Russia-based misinformation campaigns. Facebook said that one of the campaigns shared technical overlap with Russia-based activity before the 2018 U.S. midterm elections, including behavior that shared characteristics with a Kremlin-aligned organization called the internet Research Agency. In both July and August of 2018, Facebook said it dismantled influence campaigns originating in Iran and Russia that were designed to sow division in global politics. – *Wall Street Journal*

President Trump on Sunday blasted a pair of Fox News reporters over their coverage of the border wall negotiations, claiming that they have "less understanding" than journalists at "fake news CNN & NBC." "Never thought I'd say this but I think [John Roberts] and [Gillian Turner] have even less understanding of the Wall negotiations than the folks at FAKE NEWS CNN & NBC!" Trump tweeted, referring to two of the news network's top correspondents. "Look to final results! Don't know how my poll numbers are so good, especially up 19% with Hispanics?" Trump continued, referring to a poll published earlier this month that found a growing number of Latino adults approved of Trump's job performance.

The Marist poll, published in partnership with PBS and NPR, found that 50 percent of Latino adults approve of Trump's job as president, up from 31 percent in December. The survey also found that just 39 percent of adults approved of Trump's job performance. It is unclear what specific coverage Trump was referring to. Roberts filled in for Fox News anchor Chris Wallace on "Fox News Sunday." Fox News did not immediately respond to a request for comment from The Hill.

The comments from Trump come only days after he signed a continuing resolution to temporarily reopen the government following a 35-day shutdown. The funding lapse was triggered after Congress failed to reach an agreement on a new spending bill. Trump has repeatedly demanded that a long-term bill include funds for a border wall, which Democrats oppose. The president expressed doubts to The Wall Street Journal on Sunday that lawmakers could reach an agreement on the issue. "I personally think it's less than 50-50, but you have a lot of very good people on that board," Trump told The Journal, adding that another shutdown is "certainly an option." – *The Hill*

