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NewsClips

March 11, 2019

Philadelphia Inquirer Ordering your favorite stuff online? Pennsylvania, N.J. residents now owe sales tax

Just a month after announcing her 2020 presidential bid, Sen. Elizabeth Warren rolled out a proposal that further sets her apart as the race's go-to policy nerd — a plan meant to break up some of the country's biggest tech companies. "The giant tech companies right now are eating up little, tiny business startups — and competing unfairly," the Massachusetts Democrat told CBS News' "Face the Nation" on Sunday morning.

Inc. Netflix has a truly brilliant strategy, but this 1 small change could totally destroy it.

"Look at it this way, someone like Amazon runs a platform — you know, the place where you buy your coffee maker and get it delivered in 48 hours and that's great. But in addition to that, they're sucking up all that information about every purchase, every sale and every one of the other little businesses that are offering their products on Amazon."

Washington Post GOP Sen. Josh Hawley slams "toothless" federal response to privacy abuses at Facebook and Google

And while Silicon Valley has been a huge source of financial support for Democrats in recent elections, Warren said "nobody's been beating down the door" after she made her proposal. "Let me be clear," she said. "I'm not in Washington to work for billionaires. I'm in Washington to help level the playing field so that everybody gets a chance to get out there and compete. ... Right now, with giants like Amazon and Google and Facebook, do you know how venture capitals talk about the space around them? They call it the kill zone because they don't

Variety

[NBC News Readies May Launch of Streaming-Video Service](#)

[Pennlive Special election dates set to fill two open seats in the Pennsylvania Senate](#)

[Business Insider The 20 lobbying groups that spent the most money to get their voice heard in Washington last year](#)

[Philadelphia Inquirer N.J. was going to have paper-based voting machines more than a decade ago. Will it happen by 2020?](#)

[Allentown Morning Call Pennsylvania House Democrats vote to pass elections, ethics bill; Brian Fitzpatrick says it won't fix corruption](#)

want to fund businesses in that space because they know Amazon will eat them up, Facebook will eat them up, Google will eat them up.”

But this stance doesn’t mean Warren is ready to be lumped in with some of her fellow Democratic candidates as supporters of socialist ideas. Instead, Warren maintains that the best way to describe her is as a capitalist and that any attempts to label her as a socialist are “just wrong.” “I believe in markets — markets that work,” she said. “Markets that have a cop on the beat and have real rules and everybody follows them. I believe in a level playing field.” — *Politico*

Congressional Democrats launched their latest effort Wednesday to preserve the free and open nature of the internet, introducing bills in the House and Senate to reinstate the utility-style regulation the Federal Communications Commission adopted in 2015 before abandoning it two years later. This is not a serious piece of legislation. Instead, it’s the political equivalent of virtue signaling — a display of support by Democrats for the strongest possible net neutrality rules. And it has no chance of becoming law.

Democrats should know that by now. Republicans may support the idea of net neutrality, but they won’t support neutrality rules that treat internet access services like the phone monopolies of yore. And that’s what the 2015 FCC rules did. I get the legal argument for why the FCC, led by Democratic Chairman Tom Wheeler, went that route. Under the current version of the federal Communications Act, the FCC can’t bar internet service providers from doing such evil deeds as blocking or throttling legal websites and services unless it classifies broadband internet access as a “telecommunications service,” making it eligible for the strict rules once applied to phone monopolies.

And yes, I know that many communities have only one or two broadband ISPs, and I get the argument that connecting to the internet is a lot like picking up the phone to make a call — the user decides where to go online, and all the ISP does is deliver the traffic, unaltered. But here’s the thing. If Democrats are going to legislate, why settle for restoring the 2015 rules that Republicans oppose? Why not try to forge consensus on a whole new section of the Communications Act that authorizes and instructs the FCC to preserve net neutrality?

The FCC’s authority to regulate is the key sticking point here, and it has been for years. Before the latest GOP-controlled FCC renounced the whole idea of net neutrality rules last year, the commission had been trying to safeguard the status quo online for well more than a decade, under both Republican and Democratic chairmen. But before 2015, every time they adopted rules or took action against ISPs that violated net neutrality, the courts rebuked them for overstepping their authority.

The 2015 rules sought to solve that problem by reclassifying ISPs as telecommunications services, giving the FCC all the authority it needed to enforce net neutrality rules. But the reclassification also gave the agency the authority to enforce rules dating back to the 1930s that had nothing to do with net neutrality — for example, the rules governing the prices ISPs charged for services.

It was a square-peg, round-hole approach, and it proved to be the rules’ political undoing. Major phone and cable companies asserted

that this regulatory overhang would discourage investors and reduce spending on broadband networks, and Republicans sided with them. And once Republicans retook control of the FCC in 2017 under Chairman Ajit Pai, they not only repealed the 2015 rules, they also declared that the FCC had no authority to regulate almost anything ISPs did.

The fight over net neutrality will continue to go back and forth like this until Congress writes new, internet-specific provisions into the Communications Act instead of relying on outdated rules written for previous generations of communications technology. Republicans might not be crazy about that idea, but there's a solid free-market reason to regulate until there is vibrant competition among internet service providers throughout the country. As things stand, ISPs have the incentive and the opportunity to favor selected sites and services online for a fee.

Republicans have, in fact, put forward bills to write net neutrality rules into law — but without giving the FCC the power to adopt new rules should circumstances online demand them. There's a middle ground here that authorizes the FCC to write and enforce a limited set of net neutrality rules, and it's time for lawmakers to find it.

The X factor is the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, which is considering a lawsuit against the FCC's decision to repeal the 2015 rules. If the lawsuit prevails, Republicans will be much more interested in a legislative fix — and Democrats will have no reason to support one. If the court upholds the FCC, the roles will be reversed. For that reason, the best time to seek a compromise may be now, while there's still doubt about what the court will do.

Unfortunately, that's not what Democrats are proposing. Maybe they're counting on enough Republicans in the Senate to join them in supporting the 2015 rules, as three did last year. But that's not enough to get a majority in the Senate this year, and it's certainly not enough to override a certain veto by President Donald Trump. — *Los Angeles Times editorial*

The McKean County 911 Center received some new technology, according to Deputy Director Joel Anderson. Anderson says the acquisition of a new Computer Aided Dispatch System from Tyler Technologies was the highlight of the implementation of upgrades. "After two years of research and planning, followed by six months of diligent work entering data into the system we went live with the new system on December 4, 2018," said Anderson. The new system replaces one that has served the center for around a decade.

The CAD system was acquired as part of a regional shared services project with several other counties, including McKean, Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, and Warren counties. "All of the participating counties had aging systems that were either end of life, which means that they would no longer have vendor support moving forward, or were at the point where a significant upgrade was necessary to keep them running," Anderson explained. He added that the systems used across the counties varied in features and functions, and were not able to be linked without a sizable investment in software that would allow the systems to communicate. The funding for the project was secured through the

Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency; 911 Bureau from what is also referred to as the 15% fund. – ***Bradford Era***

NBC Sports Group and Sky Sports are set to announce on Monday that they are planning the most extensive television coverage ever of the Players Championship golf tournament, their biggest collaborative foray on sports coverage since Comcast Corp took over Sky last fall. NBC and Sky plan to swap analysts and some other content as part of their extensive coverage this week at the Players Championship in Florida, the PGA Tour's flagship event. "This is now the most comprehensive collaboration between NBC Sports and Sky Sports to date. There will be more going forward," Mike McCarley, President of Golf for NBC Sports Group, told Reuters.

Among other joint programming the channels are set to launch later on Monday, Sky will air nearly 25 hours of live simulcast coverage of "Golf Central Live," from this week's tournament. The U.S.-based cable company Comcast, which owns NBCUniversal and its Golf Channel, won a bidding war in September with a \$40 billion offer for 39 percent of the European pay-TV group Sky Ltd. The two networks first began talking about how they could make sports coverage more efficient and collaborative at the Ryder Cup in September.

Both companies decided to focus first on golf and the English Premier League, "two sports in which we had a shared significant investment," McCarley said. "It's not the easiest process to get through, but everyone comes to the table with the right spirit of collaboration," he said of the post-merger evolution. The Players Championship marks the first big event of the pro golf year, now that the tournament has been moved back to March from May for the first time since 2006 as part of a calendar overhaul aimed at improving the season. – ***Reuters***

