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March 13, 2018

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Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

[Donald Trump Jr. stumps for Rick Saccone on eve of special election in 18th](#)

Washington (PA) Observer-Reporter

[It's all over but the voting and counting](#)

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

[Gov. Wolf proposes ethics](#)

Over 100 members of the Fayette Chamber of Commerce took part in the annual Meet the Legislators Luncheon where local legislators discussed issues facing their constituents. The luncheon, organized by the chamber's government affairs council, is to encourage good communication between the business community and elected representatives. New this year, said chamber Executive Director Muriel Nuttall, was a request that lawmakers discuss legislation on which they're currently working.

*The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual. ~ Vince Lombardi*

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businesses.” Warner said after the legislation is passed in two consecutive sessions, it will be up to the voters to pass it in a referendum.

**State Rep. Pam Snyder**, D-Jefferson, said she has been working for a year and a half on bringing high-speed internet to underserved rural areas. “This is not an easy issue,” Snyder said. “And it’s not going to be fixed quickly.” Snyder’s co-sponsored bill will help identify all the state assets for companies to utilize those assets to put their technology on those buildings and enter agreements with the state to provide more broadband. – *Uniontown Herald-Standard*

The Church of Scientology on Sunday surprised the media business by unveiling its plan to launch the Scientology Network on platforms including DirecTV, Apple and Amazon starting Monday. Scientology distributed a “network countdown” video Sunday afternoon via social media touting the launch of “a new voice, a new network” at 8 p.m. ET on March 12. The two-minute video obliquely references

State Rep. Ryan Warner, R-Perryopolis, said his legislation is a constitutional amendment that places a cap on government spending and limits spending by the general assembly each year. “Since 1970, government spending has increased 85 percent,” Warner said, adding one major problem he’s seen is government determines how much money it wants to spend, and then it determines how it’s going to get the money to spend it. “I think that’s backwards. We don’t do that in our homes and no one does that in their

[reforms for Pennsylvania lawmakers](#)

*Harrisburg Patriot-News*

[Pa. state rep's accuser details alleged rape; he denies allegations](#)

*Lancaster Intelligencer*

[Editorial: When the state House needs to protect one of its own from you, Rep. Miccarelli, it's time for you to resign](#)

Scientology's battered reputation after numerous exposes about the church's practices and tactics in dealing with those who leave their orbit.

[Actress Leah Remini](#) and filmmaker Paul Haggis are among the former industryites who have sounded the alarm about the organization and its leadership. Remini toplines the Emmy-winning unscripted series "Leah Remini: Scientology and the Aftermath" for A&E Network. Documentarian Alex Gibney put a harsh light on the org in his 2015 HBO docu "Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief." The Scientology Network effort appears to be a stepped up effort by the church to address those critics. The countdown spot featured several young women talking up the org's offerings and hinting at the general public perception of its tarnished reputation. "The only thing more interesting that what you've heard is what you haven't," reads a slate on the promo video.

The promo materials promise six original series productions hailing from Scientology Media Productions in Hollywood. Scientology in 2011 acquired the Los Feliz studio lot that was home for decades to public TV station KCET Los Angeles. The video featured various scenes of activity on the lot and at other Scientology facilities, as well as a lingering shot of an "E-meter" electro-magnetic recording device used in the org's instructional classes, and a shot of founder L. Ron Hubbard's ubiquitous "Dianetics" book.

Scientology promises the channel will be available on Apple TV, iTunes, Roku, DirecTV, Chromecast and Google Play, and Amazon's Fire TV. A rep for DirecTV and others did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The recent focus on the National Rifle Assn. and gun control laws in the wake of last month's the high school shooting in Parkland, Fla., has raised public awareness of the growing number of corporately-owned channels that are gaining distribution on startup OTT platforms hungry for content. Apple and Amazon have come under fire for carrying the NRA TV channel that promotes gun ownership and the lobbying org's legislative agenda with numerous programs done in the vein of traditional unscripted reality shows.

Scientology Network appears to be another example of a well-heeled brand sidestepping traditional media and advertising platforms for a direct-to-consumer approach with a 24/7 TV channel to spread its message. Scientology has been expected by longtime observers to beef up its high-end media production infrastructure after it acquired the KCET lot. The grave concerns raised about Scientology's practices and the conduct of its leaders will also undoubtedly lead to pressure from activists on distributors who agree to carry Scientology Network. – *Variety*

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Two bills making their way through the Legislature seek to curtail schools as primary locations counties can set up voting booths on Election Day. The bills, introduced by [Rep. Marcia Hahn](#), R-Northampton, and [Sen. Mario Scavella](#), R-Monroe, are far from becoming law and won't interfere with voting sites during the May 15 primary election.

But Paul Soporowski of Bushkill Township hopes the Legislature acts soon on the legislation. He still can't shake the feeling he got when Nazareth Area School District sent him alerts that all district schools, with the exception of his daughters', were on full lockdown because of a nearby shooting of a state trooper on Nov. 7. Butz Elementary, five miles from the Route 33 shooting scene, was partially opened as a polling place so voters could go in and out. "There was an unknown active shooter and whereabouts unknown," Soporowski said in describing the alerts. "You are thinking of your 6-year-old daughters ... and your mind is racing."

The bills are virtually identical. They seek to amend the Pennsylvania Election Code, which allows a county board of elections “wherever possible and practicable” to select schoolhouses, municipal buildings or rooms, or other public buildings for polling places. The bills would make schools a last resort, instead of a first option, as the code now permits. The code also says police officers cannot be within 100 feet of a polling place unless called there for a disturbance or casting ballots themselves. The setback is meant to quell possible acts of voter intimidation. The restrictions on police presence in a school on Election Day is outdated in light of the Route 33 shooting, the Parkland, Fla, high school shooting and other incidents, said Soporowski.

Using Butz Elementary as a polling location has been a concern among parents for many years, but the county board of elections has declined to move the site, said Hahn. The Route 33 shooting, she said, heightened angst among parents who contacted her office to try to limit schools as a polling option. Schools cannot be completely removed as an option, Hahn said, because in many rural areas of the state schools are the only practical option. “I understand it’s up to the counties to pick the polling places, but we can amend the code and make it less of an option for schools,” she said.

Some districts that do have polling in their schools, such as the Bethlehem Area School District and Northwestern Lehigh School District, use Election Day as an in-service day for teachers so students stay home. Northampton County Executive Lamont McClure said he has not seen the legislation. But it makes sense to him to move the polling site from Butz to the Bushkill Township Fire Department’s station on Firehouse Drive. The fire station, he said, complies with the Americans with Disability Act and can handle voting booths. “It’s common sense to move voting out of schools,” said McClure, who was elected in November and took office in January. Hahn’s bill does not have a legislative reference number. Scavello’s legislation is Senate Bill 1048. He introduced it in November. It has not had a committee vote. – *Allentown Morning Call*

