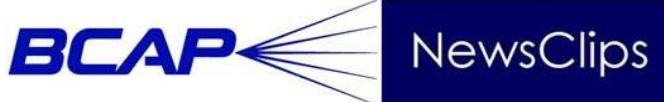
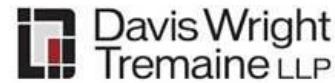


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More than 80 performers and 30 partners are joining with ArtsQuest to keep the music alive and free for the community during Musikfest 2020 July 31-Aug. 9. The 2020 Musikfest will include 40 all-new, exclusive concerts shown via Musikfest.org as part of Virtual Musikfest, 40 performances by bands airing live from the Service Electric TV studios and an on-site food and beverage experience at SteelStacks that will include at least 10 Musikfest favorite food vendors.

As the region moves through the state's reopening process, ArtsQuest will continue to announce programming updates and changes weekly, including possible additional in-person events and concerts at SteelStacks. "So many people have been asking about the status of Musikfest 2020 over the past several weeks, and for that we are so appreciative," says Kassie Hilgert, President & CEO of ArtsQuest, the nonprofit that presents Musikfest. "The reality, however, is that the focus since mid-March needed to be on the pandemic and those working on the front lines. The health of everyone, including our patrons, performers, artists, volunteers, vendors and staff, has always been and will continue to be our number-one concern in all of this. During this time of crisis, we feel it is particularly important to keep our community connected through music and the arts, as well as to support our local musicians, artists and vendors, the vast majority of whom are reeling since this pandemic has decimated the live music and events industry."

"We are working closely with the City of Bethlehem on Musikfest 2020 planning and we will look to add in-person elements on the SteelStacks campus at the

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Fierce Video Locast makes its case for streaming free local broadcast TV

Spotlight PA House Speaker Mike Turzai will resign from the Pa. House on June 15

Harrisburg Patriot-News Wolf's authority to keep emergency declaration is challenged, but likely to hold up in court, legal experts say

Allentown Morning Call Mike Pence to kick off 'American Comeback' tour in Pennsylvania

USA Today U.S. voter registration plummets during coronavirus pandemic, challenging both parties

appropriate time, following all safe social distancing guidelines and health and safety regulations enacted by the city and the state. While we can't yet predict or announce what those in-person events might look like, rest assured they will be reflective of the traditions and celebrations people have come to cherish about Musikfest."

Additional artists will be announced as they are confirmed in the coming weeks. In addition, the Service Electric TV2 Studios on Avenue A in Bethlehem are being transformed into a Musikfest stage and will offer live shows by singer-songwriters, rock acts and popular Musikfest acts all 10 days of the festival. Artists slated to perform and air live from Service Electric include The Sofa Kings, Philadelphia Funk Authority, Jimmy & the Parrots, Boat House Row, The Large Flowerheads, Fritz's Polka Band and more.

– ***Lehighton Times News***

U.S. lawmakers should look into increasing liability for online platforms such as [Facebook Inc.](#) for ads and other commercial speech, a top House Democrat said on Wednesday. The comments by Representative Jan Schakowsky of Illinois, chairwoman of a subcommittee that has taken the lead in shaping an online privacy bill, come as a legal shield protecting the companies from lawsuits over third-party content is under increasing attack from both parties in Washington.

Advocates of the legal immunity, known as Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, have argued it protects free speech online by encouraging social media platforms to leave up controversial content, although it also protects their efforts to remove objectionable posts. "We must draw bright lines that make clear that commerce is not the same thing and should not be confused with speech," Schakowsky said during a Wednesday webinar with tech critics. "Making money online and selling advertising is not the same as free speech."

Increasing liability for online ads would attack the lucrative heart of business models at Facebook, which generated almost \$71 billion in revenue in 2019, as well as sales at Google's parent company [Alphabet Inc.](#), which brought in \$162 billion that year. Schakowsky suggested changes that applied to commercial speech could target other tech companies as well, citing [Airbnb Inc.](#), which has used Section 230 to push back on regulations of the short-term rentals that users post on the site. Although Section 230 does not apply to content that [Amazon.com Inc.](#) generates itself, the e-commerce giant also has a thriving marketplace for third-party sellers.

Schakowsky in January [said](#) her staff was looking into tweaking the legal shield as a way to encourage the companies to police election misinformation. Although she had [said](#) she was trying to finalize a bill in March, that measure is now on track for the summer, according to a Democratic staff member familiar with the process. She has also complained about companies that allow false advertising and defective products, which she cited on Wednesday. Schakowsky said Facebook has not responded to her calls to stop the sale of infant sleep products on its platforms, after the Consumer Product Safety Commission recalled more than five million of them.

Schakowsky also repeated her opposition to including language resembling the legal immunity in U.S. trade agreements -- a [concern](#) echoed by several top Republicans and Democrats. Both parties have increasingly pushed to reexamine the provision, although they don't always agree on solutions. In May, after [Twitter Inc.](#) added fact-checking information to a post from Donald Trump that contained misinformation about voting, the president signed an executive order [aiming](#) to limit the shield in cases in which social media companies take down or limit political content. Legal scholars pointed out several [problems](#) that could stop the plan from ever taking effect and Democrats slammed the effort.

Asked about Schakowsky's proposal, a Facebook spokesman referred to the company's response to Trump's order. "By exposing companies to potential liability for everything that billions of people around the world say, this would penalize companies that choose to allow controversial speech and encourage platforms to censor anything that might offend anyone," the company said in the statement. The company spokesman said it would respond to Schakowsky about the listings for sleepers, which it removes when it becomes aware of them. Airbnb and Google did not immediately return a request for comment.

It was unclear Wednesday how Schakowsky would design a bill, what kinds of commercial speech would lose legal protections and whether the idea could gain support from fellow Democrats or Republicans. Both defenders and foes of Section 230 say it's become a focus of anger at the platforms, some of which originates in decisions about content moderation but can also extend to concerns about privacy and market power.

The American Economic Liberties Project, which is allied with Democrats and argues for stepped-up antitrust enforcement, said in a Wednesday policy paper that Google and Facebook should be broken up, face regulation and lose Section 230 immunity if they continue to profit from advertising. The policy group said the companies had a negative effect on democracy.

Democrats' concerns about Section 230 have usually focused on urging the removal of racist content, hate speech and election misinformation. Republicans have sought to have more of their content -- which they say gets silenced in those sweeps -- remain on the sites. The split has limited bipartisan agreement on making changes to the law. "If half of the potential votes in Congress want to change this to push in the direction of more removals and the other half wants to change to push in the direction of fewer removals, that's pretty hard to reconcile and keep the legislation," said Daphne Keller, a lecturer at Stanford University's law school.

Still, Keller said that the controversy around Trump's order, which tech groups and Democrats slammed as an attack on free speech, could provide a spotlight for counter-proposals. "This creates a really good media moment to introduce your bill if you're one of those people who want to change CDA 230 already," said Keller, a former lawyer for Google. – **Bloomberg; also in Ars Technica: Section 230, the Internet's most important – and misunderstood – law, explained**

AMC Networks is the first major programmer to join On Addressability, an addressable advertising initiative formed last June by Comcast, Charter and Cox. As part of the addressability pilot, AMC will allocate some of its commercials to addressable ads delivered to aggregated household audiences across the Charter, Comcast and Cox cable television footprints, increasing the amount of addressable advertising inventory available to national advertisers and providing additional scale.

The inclusion of AMC Networks marks a significant step forward for On Addressability. When Charter's Spectrum Reach, Comcast Advertising and Cox Media first announced the initiative, Comcast said the initial focus was on sharing what it's learned about addressable advertising in the U.S. and in Europe with Sky Media. "We launched the On Addressability initiative last year because as MVPDs, we are responsible for delivering ads into viewers' households. Enabling addressable TV has to begin with the content distributors who lay the groundwork and set up the infrastructure," said Marcien Jenckes, president of Comcast Advertising, in a statement. "Programmers have the largest amount of inventory, however, and we need their participation to achieve scale. AMC Networks' decision to partner with On Addressability is important for the industry and the start of what we believe is a growing trend."

On Addressability is working on defining common practices and standards, enabling technical solutions and working to solve challenges surrounding addressability like measurement. The cable operators are partnering with Canoe Ventures as their technical implementation and service management arm for linear and video on demand addressability. “Even though MVPDs have inventory across all platforms – IP, VOD, online included – linear television is still where the majority of viewing takes place, so if we can bring better targeting and more scale to TV advertising, while maintaining security and brand safety, everyone wins,” said David Kline, executive vice president of Charter Communications and president of Spectrum Reach, in a statement. “We’re looking at a really big opportunity, and with the cooperation and support of forward-thinking programmers like AMC, we’re well on our way.” – **Fierce Video**

Green. Was there ever a time when the color, or the word, or its present implication as an active verb, seemed as sweet as now?

With most of Pennsylvania in or moving into Gov. Tom Wolf’s green phase of recovery from coronavirus, doesn’t it seem that all is well or nearly well, even if it isn’t? And doesn’t it feel that imminent danger of illness or death is basically over, even if it isn’t? That’s the power of green.

As in the hues of spring. The rebirth of nature. The signal of safety. Green means go. Even prosperity. The color of money. In green, we can eat in a restaurant, with 50% occupancy. Or get a haircut or go to a gym, with 50% occupancy, and an appointment. We can go to shopping malls, theaters and casinos, with 50% occupancy. It’s like being half-free. Other states must be green with envy. Especially those such as Texas, Arkansas, California with big spikes in new cases. All hail the new normal. Even if it isn’t.

And so, buoyed by our (half) recovering selves, we move rapidly to deal with another virus, America’s endemic racial injustice. After a Minneapolis police officer knelt on the neck of 46-year old unarmed black man George Floyd, killing Floyd last month, a tidal wave of emotion and protest broke over the country. Suddenly, the pandemic appeared to end, replaced by a rush to societal change.

Politicians tripped over themselves to call for reforms, hold hearings, enact new laws, tear down statues, march in protests, take a knee and promise this time change will come. All should hope it does. But all should question, too. And the question is, “Where you been?” Is this the first time you’ve been made aware of racial inequity in the criminal justice system? Are you unfamiliar with decades of studies, reports, surveys and books documenting racism – from profiling to arrests, sentencing to incarceration and, yes, police killings – in your city, state and nation? Have you not seen the [Washington Post “Fatal Force” database](#) of police shootings? It was started five years ago after a police officer fatally shot unarmed 18-year-old black man Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014.

It documents 1,000 people a year, armed and unarmed, shot and killed by police. It notes, “Black Americans are killed at a much higher rate than white Americans.” (Though, interestingly, a Wall Street Journal piece by Heather Mac Donald, of the conservative think tank Manhattan Institute, cites the Post database showing that in 2019, police fatally shot nine unarmed blacks and 19 unarmed whites. The piece does not note blacks are 13 percent of the population; whites, 77 percent.)

But let’s assume our great leaders, fully informed or not, drum majors for justice or not, act now on high principle rather than politics-of-the-moment. Let’s assume some measure of racial calm can come from racial unrest. Pennsylvania’s Republican-run legislature, hardly known as a nest of doves, might, for example, hold a special session on police reforms.

This after Black House Democrats commandeered the House chamber, demanding action; and House GOP Speaker Mike Turzai asked Gov. Tom Wolf to call a special session. Meanwhile, the GOP Senate says, such a session isn't needed. And Wolf, who announced he'll name a deputy inspector general and a new commission to deal with cop misconduct, doesn't oppose a special session but thinks regular legislation can do the job and a special session really isn't needed. (This seems reminiscent of Wolf's view of his coronavirus social restrictions: not really needed if you want to march in a Black Lives Matter protest.)

Still, there seems to be agreement something must get done. The plan appears to be to start with measures such as more disclosure of cops' backgrounds and complaints against them, regular testing for post-traumatic stress disorder, and independent, outside-of-jurisdiction reviews of police killings. Reforms such as a statewide ban on chokeholds and "no-knock warrants" or re-examining police-funding issues appear to be heavier lifts.

But maybe the weight of a social movement pushes our politics to what Martin Luther King Jr. called "the fierce urgency of now." Will we greenlight racial justice? Or leave it in a toxic, sickly green sameness? – **John Baer's column in Harrisburg Patriot-News**



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