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Fierce Video
Could the flight from legacy pay TV be easing?

Pittsburgh City Paper
KDKA Radio's 'combative' editorial strategy has employees and listeners worried about the historic station's legacy

NPR
Delaware Quietly Fielded An Online Voting System, But Now Is Backing Away

Bloomberg
Twitter Apologizes for No Disability Support on Voice Tweets

Deadline Hollywood
NFL Network and NFL RedZone No Longer Available On Dish And Sling TV Amid Distribution Deal Impasse

Comcast will continue to offer 60 days of free internet service for new low-income customers, as [the coronavirus pandemic](#) drags on and forces consumers to study and work from home. The Philadelphia cable giant is extending the broadband offering through the end of the year. It was initially set to expire June 30. The company cited schools possibly relying on remote learning when they reopen in the fall.

The 60 days of free service are for customers who sign up for Comcast's low-income broadband program, called Internet Essentials. The service costs \$9.95 a month after that period and provides download speeds of 25 mbps and upload speeds of 3 mbps. As of March 31, roughly [32,000 customers signed up for the free service](#) during the first quarter of this year, according to an earnings report. "Now more than ever, connectivity has become a vital tool for families to access educational resources for students, important news and information about their community and the world, telehealth applications, or to stay in touch with family and friends," Dana Strong, president of consumer services for Comcast's Xfinity unit, said in a statement.

The extension comes as the coronavirus continues to keep many students and employees at home, forcing them to rely on their own internet service for work and class. [Thousands of students in Philadelphia were without internet access](#) when the pandemic first hit. The School District has distributed tens of thousands of Chromebooks to students to promote remote learning, with Comcast CEO Brian Roberts [donating \\$5 million to help pay for them](#).

Still, school officials, lawmakers, and activists have asked Comcast — the nation's largest home internet provider — to do more to help close the digital divide during the pandemic. Last month, Philadelphia School District Superintendent William R. Hite Jr. said he asked Comcast and other internet providers to open residential WiFi networks to others so all students could learn through their laptops, [but they all refused](#). U.S. Sen. Cory Booker (D., N.J.) signed a letter in May urging Comcast to open all WiFi hot spots for schoolchildren, too. "Comcast has taken important steps to help Americans get connected during this global public health emergency," the letter said. "But it can — and should — do more to help children and teachers." Comcast has said its residential WiFi networks were not engineered for broad public use.

Washington Post
Twitter labels Trump
video tweet as
manipulated media,
continuing
crackdown on
misinformation

Spotlight PA
Parts of Pa.
reopened without
robust coronavirus
contact tracing to
keep residents safe

Pennlive
Wolf Administration
reinforces orders for
Pennsylvanians to
mask up at
businesses,
workplaces, public
indoor settings

Philadelphia Inquirer
Pa. NAACP sues
state for changes to
election law before
November's election

Politico
'My biggest risk':
Trump says mail-in
voting could cost
him reelection

The company has made business and outdoor WiFi hot spots free for everyone.

“Our residential access points are designed to support our customers and their guests in the home,” Comcast spokesman John Demming said in a statement. “They are not intended for broad, public use and are not engineered to support the high volume of users that our business and outdoor hot spots can handle.” To qualify for Internet Essentials, customers must be eligible for public assistance programs such as the National School Lunch Program, Medicaid, or SNAP. They also must not have been a Comcast internet subscriber within the last 90 days, though that restriction doesn’t apply to Philadelphians. For the rest of the year, Comcast is waiving another requirement that typically prohibits customers with an outstanding debt from signing up for the program.

– *Philadelphia Inquirer*

A prominent advertising agency is advising clients to support an ad boycott against Facebook Inc. that was recently called for by civil-rights groups, a move that comes amid growing tensions between Madison Avenue and the social network over how it polices its content. In an email to clients on Thursday, 360i, a digital-advertising firm owned by ad giant Dentsu Group Inc., said it supports [the July ad boycott](#) that groups including the Anti-Defamation League and the NAACP called for against Facebook on Wednesday.

The groups urged big advertisers to pull spending from Facebook for July to protest the lack of progress the social-media giant has made enforcing its policies around hate speech and misinformation. 360i, whose clients include spice maker McCormick & Co., Discover Financial Services and consumer-goods giant Unilever PLC, “believes any social platform that earns profits by amplifying the voices of their community must have a zero tolerance policy for hate,” according to the email, which was seen by The Wall Street Journal. “It is no longer enough to be on a path to addressing this or merely celebrating the considerable gains made over the last year or so,” said the email, which didn’t mention Facebook by name but linked to a recent Journal story about the civil-rights groups’ call to boycott Facebook. “Therefore, we support #StopHateforProfit and its July call to action.”

Carolyn Everson, vice president of Global Business Group at Facebook, said in a statement that the company was in conversations with marketers and civil-rights organizations about how to be “a force for good to fight racial injustice around the world.” Tensions between Madison Avenue and Facebook have quickly escalated because of [the company's handling of some posts](#) made by President Trump last month. Facebook Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg allowed two posts by Mr. Trump that called demonstrators thugs and warned: “When the looting starts, the shooting starts.”

Earlier Thursday, Facebook said it [took down campaign posts and ads for the president](#), citing violations of its policy against what it called “organized hate.” The ads, featuring a downward-pointing triangle, asked Trump supporters to back President Trump’s calls to designate antifa as a terrorist organization. The inverted red triangle is a marking Nazis used to designate political prisoners in concentration camps, according to the Anti-Defamation League. A Trump campaign spokesman said the inverted red triangle was a symbol used by Antifa.

Over the past few years, Facebook has invested in workers and technology to guard against election interference and to better police its platforms, resulting in [improvements in the removal of hate speech](#) and other objectionable content. Last week, an ad executive at Mediabrand, a large ad-buying firm owned by Interpublic Group of Cos. said on LinkedIn that it was time for marketers to hold Facebook’s leadership team accountable.

Facebook “must rethink how to curb the spread of content that incites violence and leads to divisive discourse,” wrote Elijah Harris, senior vice president of

paid social at Mediabrands' Reprise. He called for marketers and ad agencies to commit to reallocating the spending that would traditionally go to Facebook to partners that better align with the values of their companies. Mr. Harris's post was reported earlier by Business Insider.

In an interview, Mr. Harris said the way Facebook handled Mr. Trump's posts was the "tipping point" that made him speak out. Mr. Harris said he doesn't speak on behalf of his ad agency. Mediabrands said it isn't advising clients to pull their dollars from Facebook. Instead, the ad-buying firm said it recently developed a list of principles it is sharing with its clients to hold the entire media industry to a higher standard "that stops racial injustice and elevates the conversation," said Joshua Lowcock, global brand safety officer at Mediabrands. The agency's clients include Coca-Cola Co., Johnson & Johnson and Amazon.com Inc.

Facebook and other tech giants have been somewhat immune from past moves by big marketers to curb their spending because the platforms don't rely as heavily on large marketers as other media such as TV networks. Facebook's U.S. revenue from digital advertising is expected to rise about 5% this year to \$31.43 billion, according to eMarketer. In 2017, several companies pulled their spending from Alphabet Inc.'s YouTube after they found their ads running alongside extremist and racist content on the site. The pullback didn't dent the company's revenue. One major marketer said it is considering suspending its Facebook ads because of the social-media company's stance. The company is working to figure out how to dial its spending down without seeing a dip in its marketing performance. — *Wall Street Journal*

Impeachment, the removal from office, should not be partisan politics by other means.

Impeachment should only be used as a last resort to deal with serious crimes or offenses committed by an elected official. Instead, impeachment has become a political tool wielded by one party in an attempt to remove an opponent, a roadblock to the party's preferred agenda. It ignores the threat such a move places on the democratic process and the potential damage to voters' faith in the system.

A group of Republican state House members are backing a resolution calling for the impeachment of Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf over his handling of the coronavirus pandemic. It's a distraction from serious issues that need to be addressed in Harrisburg, a move borne more of political posturing than substantive claims of misconduct. The resolution was introduced by state Rep. Daryl Metcalfe, a Butler County Republican who has long been a critic of the Wolf administration in particular and Democrats in general. He claims Mr. Wolf's actions during the pandemic— particularly the order closing businesses deemed "non-life sustaining"— were unconstitutional and violated citizens' rights.

Mr. Metcalfe's resolution cites the Wolf administration's lack of transparency and vagueness in issuing waivers for businesses to reopen; the refusal by state agencies to process records requests; the failure of the unemployment compensation system to quickly and adequately respond to benefit requests; and the lack of a comprehensive plan to protect residents and staff at nursing homes. The resolution has 24 co-sponsors — including a handful from Western Pennsylvania — all of whom are Republicans and frequent critics of Mr. Wolf.

The Republican-controlled Legislature has been at odds with Mr. Wolf over the method — and speed — of reopening the state's economy, and has attempted several times to end the governor's authority granted during the COVID-19 emergency. That has further ramped up the divisiveness and partisanship in Harrisburg.

There are legitimate concerns raised by Mr. Metcalfe in regard to Mr. Wolf's actions during the pandemic. The business waiver program, in particular, was fraught with inconsistencies and a near-total lack of transparency. The plan for dealing with COVID-19 outbreaks at nursing homes lacked any semblance of the immediacy needed to control outbreaks and deaths at those facilities. And the overwhelmed unemployment compensation system left far too many waiting far too long for relief. Those are legitimate issues and criticisms that should be addressed. None of them, however, rises to the level of impeachment. – ***Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* editorial**

U.S. Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, a Bucks County Republican, [told The Inquirer last month](#) that he is undecided on whether to vote for Trump or former Vice President Joe Biden. Then he [easily survived a primary challenge](#) from an opponent who cast himself as a loyal Trump fan. A new survey commissioned by his opponent's campaign may explain Fitzpatrick's thinking. The survey by the Democratic firm Public Policy Polling calls Fitzpatrick's 1st District contest against Democrat Christina Finello a "toss-up."

Trump has a 56% disapproval rating, while 56% of voters there would vote for Biden, the poll found. Finello is down just 2 points in the race, 40% to 38%, with 21% undecided. That's even though 71% of the voters didn't know enough about her to have an opinion. Tying Fitzpatrick to Trump is Finello's goal, despite his holding the president at arms' length.

The poll found 47% of voters were less likely to support Fitzpatrick after hearing he supports Trump's legislative agenda "when it matters most, including on coronavirus and the Trump tax plan," while 16% said it make them more likely to support him and 37% were unsure or said it didn't matter. Fitzpatrick's camp deferred to the National Republican Congressional Committee, the campaign arm for House Republicans, which touted him as "the most bipartisan member of Congress" and dismissed Finello as a "partisan zealot" who [trails and has little money](#). Finello's camp, which is using the poll to raise money, hit back by saying Fitzpatrick's "relying on Trump's party headquarters to make his case only shows his 'bipartisan' title is just an act."

The Pennsylvania Republican Party still can't agree on the proposed "unity resolution" designed to make peace at its July 10 summer meeting. The original plan, [as Clout explained last week](#): Have [22-year Republican National Committee veteran](#) Bob Asher of Montgomery County seek another four-year term in a two-phase election that would require his resignation next February and guarantee that [party secretary](#) Andy Reilly of Delaware County would step up as an RNC member for the rest of the term.

But the RNC told the state party this week that violates its rule on one person being elected at a time. So state party Chair Lawrence Tabas of Philadelphia, in an email to state committee members Wednesday, proposed that Reilly be elected to a four-year term and then "deliver an irrevocable proxy" to Asher, allowing him to serve five more months in the post. Reilly and Vonne Andring, the party's executive director, said Asher's team developed the first proposal. Asher declined to comment. Tabas, in his email, said Asher has not agreed to the new plan. "If Bob has continued objections, that is unfortunate," Reilly said Thursday. – **Chris Brennan's "Clout" column in *Philadelphia Daily News***

