

"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."

~ Harry S. Truman



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June 23, 2020

Hollywood Reporter

Comcast NBCUniversal today announced it has awarded approximately \$187,500 in scholarships for the 2020-2021 school year to

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Republican Kerry
Benninghoff elected
as Pa. House
majority leader**

**Harrisburg Patriot-
News
A ruling could come
as soon as this week
in legal standoff
between Wolf and
Pa. legislature**

**Philadelphia Inquirer
Democrats hope Joe
Biden's VP choice
can help him win Pa.
But who can do
that?**

75 Pennsylvania students as part of its annual Leaders and Achievers® Scholarship Program. Students are selected for their outstanding community service, academic performance, and leadership skills. The award, funded by the Comcast NBCUniversal Foundation, is a one-time, \$2,500 scholarship to be used toward undergraduate education-related expenses. Since 2001, more than \$34 million has been awarded to about 30,000 high school seniors across the country as part of the Leaders and Achievers program.

"We are honored to recognize the amazing achievements of our Leaders and Achievers scholarship winners and to help them further their education," said Jim D'Innocenzo, Vice President of Government and Regulatory Affairs, Comcast Northeast Division (and BCAP Board of Directors member). "They are top achievers in academics, leaders in the community and leaders among their peers. They represent our future, and Comcast NBCUniversal is proud to support them."

The scholarship recipients are planning to enroll in some of the top colleges and universities around the Region and the country including the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, Johns Hopkins University, Boston University, Carnegie Mellon University, Duke University, Princeton University, Temple University and Berklee College of Music, to name a few.

The Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship Program recognizes high school seniors for their community service, academic performance, and leadership skills. These scholarships are provided to give young people the opportunity to continue their education to better compete in tomorrow's workplace. Applicants to the Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship Program must demonstrate academic excellence, commitment to community service, and outstanding qualities in character, integrity, and leadership.

Visit [here](#) to learn more about the program. -- **Comcast news release**

The past several months have been challenging for all of us, and Blue Ridge Communications wants to thank its customers for their understanding and patience. During this unprecedented time, Blue Ridge signed the FCC Pledge to Keep America Connected. It suspended data allowances, and for customers who called and told them that they couldn't pay their bill because of COVID-19, Blue Ridge waived disconnects and late fees. In addition, Blue Ridge launched a Learn from Home Initiative to provide free Internet service for families with students who previously did not have Internet access.

With its areas getting back to normal, Blue Ridge plans to return to its standard operating procedures effective July 1, with the following changes:

- Data allowances will increase to accommodate increased usage. The new allowances can be found at www.brctv.com/allowances.
- Offices will be opening, and its technicians will begin doing in-home work with modifications to keep its employees and customers safe on a rolling schedule over the next several weeks. A separate notice will be sent when your area office is open and in-home work begins.

Anyone who needs account assistance may contact Blue Ridge at 800-222-5377, or chat with them online at www.brctv.com and one of its customer service representatives will assist you in finding a plan that works for you. Things are very different today from how they were in March. While much has changed, one constant is the commitment and care Blue Ridge has for its friends and neighbors in the communities it serves.

Blue Ridge looks forward to continuing its relationship and serving you for many more years to come. — **Lehigh Valley Times-News**

Musikfest and the Lehigh Valley IronPigs are teaming up for a dream team promotion, one that could benefit both organizations. The IronPigs and ArtsQuest will jointly offer a merchandise package featuring both a Musikfest mug and an IronPigs 'Festers cap, now available at [ShopIronPigs.com](https://shopironpigs.com). Proceeds will be split evenly between the IronPigs and ArtsQuest to support both organizations.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected both organizations. The IronPigs' season has been postponed and Musikfest was forced to shift to a mostly virtual event this year, due to the state's limitations on crowd size and requirements for social distancing. "The IronPigs and Musikfest are perhaps the two most celebrated summer brands in the Lehigh Valley," IronPigs President and General Manager Kurt Landes said. "Giving fans an opportunity to purchase a Musikfest mug and an IronPigs 'Festers cap simultaneously is a winning combination and will help to support both organizations during this difficult time."

"Musikfest and the IronPigs have partnered for many years to bring incredible and affordable entertainment to people of the Lehigh Valley and beyond. We hope this special merchandise package will remind our fans that someday we will get back to convening communities, making memories, and that every purchase and donation made now will help to ensure we can do just that," said Kassie Hilgert, president and CEO of ArtsQuest. The first Musikfest mug was not a mug at all in 1984 when it made its debut. It was a small cup and pitcher. It has evolved over time to what it is today — a colorful 24-ounce insulated mug. The 'Festers cap features the IronPigs logo and celebrates the color and design scheme of this year's Musikfest under the brim of the cap. The 'Festers logo was developed jointly by the two organizations four years ago when the two brands partnered for the first time to celebrate at Coca-Cola Park.

The cap was originally scheduled to be distributed this summer on July 30 at the IronPigs' annual "Festers Night," presented by **Service Electric Cable TV**.
– **Allentown Morning Call**

Georgia lawmakers have passed a measure that would allow the state's Public Service Commission to regulate how much electric cooperatives charge to carry internet lines on their utility poles. [House Bill 244](#) passed the Senate by a 31-22 vote on Monday after an attempt to water it down failed. It now goes to Gov. Brian Kemp for his signature or veto.

Supporters said cooperatives charge too much to attach lines from other service providers to their poles, making it too expensive for cable and telecommunication companies to extend broadband services into rural areas. "We've got an absolutely pressing problem of not enough broadband out into the state," Senate Majority Leader John Kennedy, a Macon Republican, said during debate.

The idea is that the five elected members of the Public Service Commission would study how much it actually costs cooperatives to erect and maintain power poles. The commission regulates Georgia Power Co.'s electrical rates, but not those of the state's 41 cooperatives. Some cooperatives serve the state's most rural areas, while others serve densely populated Atlanta suburbs. Overall, cooperatives say they serve more than 4.6 million Georgia residents. Opponents said Monday that large private providers are using the popular issue of extending internet access to underserved areas to wrest money away from member-owned electric cooperatives. Lawmakers last year allowed cooperatives to begin offering internet service.

Cable giant Comcast Corp. has represented it would expand service to 20,000 new customers if fees fall, but Sen. Lindsey Tippins, a Marietta Republican, said cooperatives would lose more money than cable companies would spend. Cooperatives have said they would lose \$27.5 million if their pole fees fell to \$7 a pole, just above the \$6.50 charged by Georgia Power Co., warning they

might seek to recover the lost revenue through higher charges on electrical customer. — **Associated Press**

France's coronavirus tracing app has sent just 14 notifications since its launch, underscoring the struggle governments are facing to develop their own digital tools to fight the pandemic. StopCovid has been downloaded 1.9 million times since its June 2 launch, representing less than 3% of France's population, Cedric O, the digital minister, said during a press conference in Paris on Tuesday. Only 68 users declared themselves as positive for Covid-19, and 14 "risky contact" notifications have been sent to users who came into close proximity of such cases.

The latest data shows how governments have a tough road ahead in trying to develop their own tools. The U.K. [abandoned](#) efforts to launch its own tracing app, and will use technology developed by Apple Inc. and Google instead. O also said that app removals had accelerated in the "past few days" and could reflect that people are less worried about the pandemic.

Low traffic could create difficulties. More usage means developers can "assess various directions and tweaks to this app in order to be ready for a potential second wave of the epidemic in the months to come," Vittoria Colizza, research director at Inserm, the French institute of health and medical research, said at the same press conference. France went into lockdown mid-March and started a progressive exit from May 11 as the virus trends improved. -- **Bloomberg**

Major League Baseball on Monday said that it would impose an abbreviated 2020 season after a bruising and inconclusive dispute between team owners and the players' union that could signal years of labor discord ahead. But [a significant hurdle still remains](#) in the way of returning to the field: a spike of coronavirus cases in key parts of the country that has the sports world nervous about restarting play.

The announcement comes after weeks of posturing, public ultimatums and brinkmanship between the league and the Major League Baseball Players Association, who together failed to reach a negotiated settlement dictating how to handle the economics of playing games with no fans in attendance. Instead, MLB commissioner Rob Manfred plans to exercise his right to implement a schedule of the length of his choosing—likely consisting of 60 games from late July until late September—followed by a normal postseason tournament.

Baseball's attempt to return to the field [comes just days](#) after MLB closed down all team training facilities across Florida and Arizona to address a surge in players and staff contracting Covid-19. The Philadelphia Phillies alone confirmed eight positive tests on Friday, with dozens more still pending heading into last weekend. Four states that are part of the current surge—Florida, California, Arizona and Texas—host 10 of the league's 30 franchises.

A March 26 deal the parties signed shortly after the cessation of spring training gave Manfred the right to determine the length of the season as long as the two sides agreed on health and safety protocols. The union said in a statement Monday that it anticipates finalizing that document soon. The league asked the MLBPA to say by 5 p.m. ET on Tuesday whether players can report to camp by July 1.

The March pact, intended to forge a path forward at the start of the pandemic, quickly demonstrated that baseball and its workforce have problems that will be part of the game's landscape in coming years. The agreement stipulated that players would receive their salaries prorated for the number of games played. But management later said that it couldn't afford to pay that rate over a longer schedule without income from tickets, parking and concessions. The

owners tried to convince players to accept further financial concessions in exchange for a longer season.

The MLBPA held its position that it wouldn't consent to a cent less than full proration and rejected a series of proposals that called for more pay cuts. But the two sides could never agree how long the season should be. In the end, the players handed the fate of the season over to Manfred, shooting down the owners' final overture Monday evening by a final tally of 33-5. In doing so, the players retained their opportunity to file a grievance arguing that the owners didn't in good faith try to play as many games as possible. "While we had hoped to reach a revised back to work agreement with the league, the players remain fully committed to proceeding under our current agreement and getting back on the field for the fans, for the game and for each other," the union said in a statement Monday.

The season will feature a normal 10-team playoff structure, instead of the experimental 16-team postseason that was on offer. Owners wanted additional playoff games to sell to television networks in need of original, live programming. They determined that the extra revenues in media-rights fees wouldn't justify the costs of granting the players' wish of more regular-season games. All of this was a preview of what may be an even more contentious negotiation following the 2021 campaign, when the current collective bargaining agreement expires. Before any of this happened, a work stoppage already seemed possible, if not probable, because of growing tension between the two sides over stagnant spending on free agents and union concerns over competitive integrity.

Now, the difficult talks surrounding the restart of this season only widened the level of distrust, sinking the relationship between management and the union to its worst place since the strike that wiped out the 1994 World Series. Meanwhile, the absence of a detente could come with more immediate consequences, raising the possibility that some players opt out of the 2020 season entirely. Regardless of Monday's outcome, the entire ordeal of the past few months represents an enormous disappointment for a sport struggling to maintain its longstanding place in the fabric of American life.

Not long ago, MLB dreamed of a triumphant opening day celebration on the Fourth of July and commanding the attention of hungry sports fans for the entire month. Now, the 2020 season will be shrouded in acrimony. "It's absolute death for this industry to keep acting as it has been," Cincinnati Reds pitcher Trevor Bauer posted on Twitter on Monday. "Both sides. We're driving the bus straight off a cliff. How is this good for anyone involved?"

For now, however, baseball will try to join other major North American team sports in returning to play during the ongoing pandemic. Unlike virtually every other league, baseball does not currently plan to operate in a self-contained "bubble," like the NBA's plan to sequester players, coaches and staff and the Walt Disney World campus near Orlando, Fla., for months.

With no time to put together its own bubble plan, baseball plans to play at home ballparks, with teams expected to face only opponents located within their geographic region to reduce travel. Restrictions on movement between the U.S. and Canada could force the Toronto Blue Jays to temporarily relocate, perhaps sharing Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, Fla., with the Tampa Bay Rays or at their spring training site in nearby Dunedin. An earlier draft of the league's health and safety protocols called for players receiving coronavirus tests multiple times per week to avoid outbreaks of the virus. They include overhauling areas like the dugouts and bullpens to promote social distancing, as well as guidelines for players when away from the workplace.

Throughout the negotiations, the owners feared the possibility that resurgence of coronavirus cases in the fall could force MLB to cut the season short, before the lucrative postseason. The players wanted to extend the regular season into October and hold the playoffs in November. Management refused, citing the

advice of its medical experts. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, has said that he would recommend baseball keeping its season to the core summer months to the extent possible. Next week, players will begin an unprecedented "summer training" and begin the process of trying to have an unprecedented season in an unprecedented time. And as daunting as it will be, starting the season might be the easy part. Finishing could be much tougher. -- **Wall Street Journal**



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