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NewsClips

June 28, 2017

Dallas Morning News
[A year later, Frontier's Verizon Fios deal is a textbook case of how not to do an acquisition](#)

Philadelphia Inquirer
[Comcast's NBC Sports Group to broadcast every English Premier League soccer game live on TV and free of charge online](#)

USA Today
[Is Amazon getting too big?](#)

Variety
[Cable News Ratings: MSNBC, CNN, Fox News Post](#)

Somerset County is in a good position to increase broadband internet availability, Vatauvuk said, since the county has received more than \$1.5 million in grants this year to improve internet speeds. The Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce announced in May that it will award \$569,204 to Somerset County to expand the county's fiber-optic communications infrastructure. The Appalachian Regional Commission awarded a similar \$948,673 grant to the county in January.

The commissioners have said that having widely available high-speed broadband internet service is now an economic necessity. "As we move forward, it just becomes more and more important to be able to connect with everyone instantly," Commissioner Gerald Walker said when the EDA grant was announced. Eighteen people attended the Somerset open house, while nine attended the event in Windber, Commissioner Gerald Walker said. More open houses in the series will be held Wednesday and Thursday in Cambria and Somerset counties. – *Johnstown Tribune-Democrat*

In [a potential deal](#) with Sprint Corp., two big cable operators, Comcast Corp. and Charter Communications Inc., are seeking the ability to sell Sprint's wireless service under their own brands. Such reseller offerings allow a company to provide wireless service without owning or operating a network. [There are dozens of companies in the U.S.](#) that piggyback on others' networks. These include TracFone and Straight Talk, which run on multiple carriers, and Consumer Cellular, which uses AT&T Inc. and T-Mobile US Inc.

These arrangements are becoming increasingly important as bigger companies with more serious wireless ambitions consider offering them. The companies that act as mobile virtual-network operators, or MVNOs, traditionally don't invest in network improvements because, as resellers of cellular service, they don't own the infrastructure.

The big four carriers dictate prices so there is a limit to how low resellers can set their own fees. Some high-profile MVNOs [failed years ago](#), including earlier attempts by cable companies. In the U.S., MVNOs manage the wireless connections for 38 million devices. T-Mobile is the biggest provider of connections to resellers with 12 million, followed by Sprint with 5 million, according to UBS.

For wireless carriers, MVNO agreements offer an additional source of revenue but the decision to enter into one can be tricky. Providing lines to an MVNO is highly profitable because the wireless carriers don't have to pay for marketing or acquisition costs. But an MVNO's customers don't bring in as much revenue as customers who sign up directly.

[Double-Digit Growth in Q2](#)

[Politico Google grows up](#)

[Pittsburgh Tribune-Review Carnegie Mellon to harness power of collaboration to advance artificial intelligence](#)

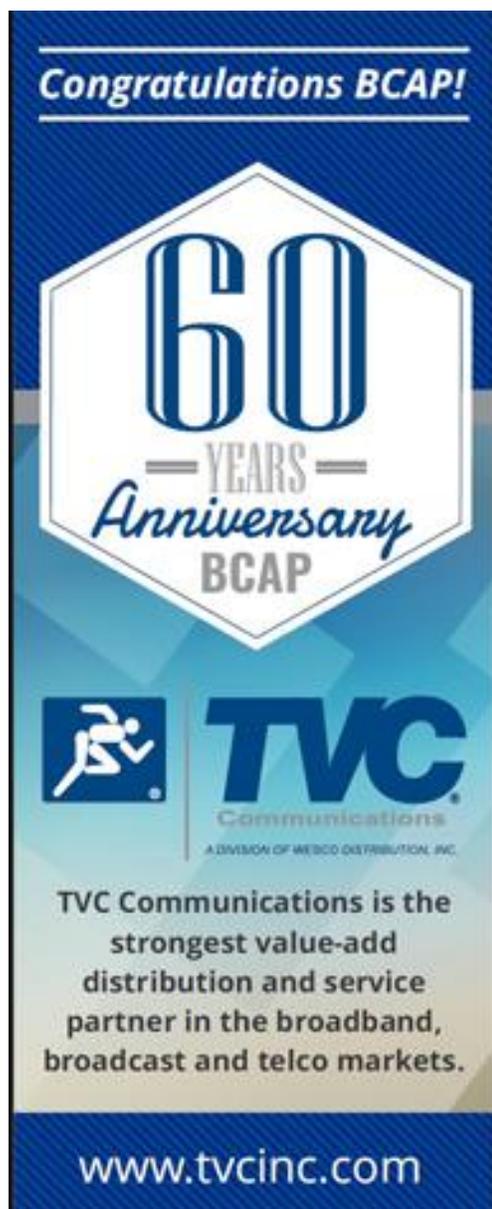
[Zap2it Cable Top 25 for Week Ending June 25](#)

[philly.com Wolf sees budget 'progress;' evidence wanting](#)

A carrier could even find itself losing its own subscribers to a popular MVNO using its own network. In 2015, [Google launched an MVNO](#) called Project Fi. Unlike other MVNOs, Project Fi loads special software on its phones that allows devices to bounce between Sprint and T-Mobile networks, depending on which carrier has the faster connection. The goal is to encourage the carriers to build fast networks.

When Sprint decided to sign on with Google, [it didn't take the decision lightly](#). But the fear was that if Sprint didn't do the deal, one of the other three carriers would. The Wall Street Journal has reported. Earlier this year, Comcast launched an MVNO that uses Verizon Communications Inc.'s network, and Charter says it plans to launch a similar MVNO soon. Verizon agreed to enter into MVNO deals with the cable operators in 2011 as part of [a \\$3.6 billion agreement](#) to buy access to wireless airwaves the firms owned.

Comcast and Charter already play a major role in the U.S. wireless industry thanks to their ubiquitous Wi-Fi networks, which many people have in their homes via their cable broadband internet connections. They could gain an edge on telecom rivals by marketing ["quad play" service](#) with an MVNO on top of phone, TV and broadband. – *Wall Street Journal*



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How you enjoying your summer thus far? Politically, I mean. Just one week in, it's shaping up as the summer of our discontent.

In Washington and Harrisburg, Republicans fight each other over, respectively, health care and a new state budget. These fights play out like real-life versions of the old wordless comic strip *Spy vs. Spy*: entertaining, sure, but only producing stuff that keeps blowing up. In Washington, Trump and company bask in wins of multiple congressional special elections and this week's Supreme Court go-ahead nod for at least a mini-travel ban. This certainly makes many Republicans happy.

I'm just not sure what such wins do for, say, average American working families worrying over stagnant income, health-care costs, car payments, college tuition, etc. Meanwhile, we're treated to GOP-on-GOP wrangling over the latest effort to repeal and replace Obamacare, action promised by the Republican president (on day one, if memory serves me) and, incidentally, by Republican leaders for the last seven years.

Maybe, to quote one [high-ranking public official](#), "nobody knew health care could be so complicated." And Democrats, a.k.a. the party of headless chickens, continue to run around in circles, depressed about losing elections, distraught by the very plain fact they simply have no voice. This is a party that's the best argument for registering as an independent voter and pushing for open primaries in each and every state.

And then there's Harrisburg, D.C.'s little mirror image along the Susquehanna. Republicans are fighting each other in Harrisburg, too. But not over anything as important to the general population as health care; they're fighting over VGTs. And, no, that's not a sexually transmitted disease. It stands for video gaming terminals, or specifically, a new way to suck more money from people who haven't yet learned the house always wins.

In this case, the GOP House wants 40,000 money-sucking machines all over the state because (just between you and

me) there's more interest in new revenue that doesn't come from business (read: donors) and less interest in any community's quality of life. The Senate, generally known as a little more sensible than the House — a low bar indeed — has concerns about such expansion, its impact on urban neighborhoods, and its possible threat to lottery funds that serve senior citizens.

Resolving this disagreement, just to show you the level of discourse in your Capitol, is **reportedly key** to resolving a new budget due by the end of this week. And that budget is all but guaranteed to be a no-big-taxes/no-big-solutions, maintain-the-fiscal-pain plan.

Neither Republican legislative leaders nor Democratic Gov. Wolf wants the kind of protracted battle waged in Wolf's first year. It was due the end of June 2015. It was done in March 2016. So the prime directive now isn't to do what's best to address budget holes and looming deficits. It's to do what's necessary to paper over problems and get out of town, lest voters think less of them (if that's possible).

This sort of "leadership" is why seven consecutive Franklin and Marshall College **polls** since the 2015 budget fiasco say the most important problem facing Pennsylvania is "government, politicians." Not taxes. Not health care. Not education. Not infrastructure. "Government, politicians." So don't seek summer contentment in Washington or Harrisburg, two comic-strip-worthy capitals in which your interests aren't always drivers of policy.

But, hey, there's always next year. To borrow from the Bard of Avon in the opening of *Richard III*, maybe we'll all say: "Now is the winter of our discontent/Made glorious summer by this son of York." In 2018, when the next gubernatorial election rolls around, you could get to pick a son of York: Sen. Scott Wagner or Gov. Wolf. – **Philadelphia Daily News**

