



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

~ Harry S. Truman



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When the pandemic shut down the Cancer Telethon in April, Chairman Joe Krushinsky didn't give up hope. After all, the message of the telethon is all about hope.

Coming off a record year in 2019 with \$250,334 raised, the committee members put their heads together and met with host **Blue Ridge Communications** to hatch a plan for 24 hours of broadcasting in the age of social distancing. The telethon, held Saturday and Sunday from the TV studio and various remote locations, raised an encouraging \$55,154 Saturday and ended with a grand total of \$178,975 at midnight Sunday. No one knew how it would go since many of the fundraisers leading up to the telethon were canceled. "Our goal was not a numeric goal per se. We simply want to create an environment where you, our beloved community of central Northeastern Pennsylvania, can do everything possible to support the American Cancer Society's lifesaving mission," Krushinsky said during the telethon.

The mantra was, "Cancer hasn't stopped. So neither have we." Krushinsky said, "Unfortunately, cancer kind of stays on the job no matter what else is going on in the world. That's why we needed to respond. That's why we couldn't go a year without gathering this community in the fight." The talent sent videos, performed via Zoom or asked to be included with a tape from a previous year's performance. One of the major fundraisers for the telethon is the Chinese auction, postponed twice until it was held at the Lakeside ballroom last weekend with complete social distancing in effect. Many tickets were sold in advance. When the numbers were drawn, people listened from the parking lot on their radios.

The event raised \$29,400, just shy of the 2019 total of \$30,100. "It proves in the face of adversity, people come through," longtime volunteer Maureen Donovan said. The Relay for Life events were canceled because of the pandemic, but the Anthracite crew adapted the luminaria portion to have a drive-thru program at the Jim Thorpe Memorial Saturday night. People paid \$10 for a luminaria to honor a loved one or pay a tribute to their memory. The telethon included live remotes to Pottsville, Stroudsburg, Lansford and Bethlehem, with Zoom calls with hosts at their homes and various locations. The band played at The Hofford Mill, and the timpani to announce the \$100,000 mark came from longtime volunteer Vicki Willman at her home in Hagerstown, Maryland.

Courage award winners received their plaques throughout the telethon: Donna Laughlin of Tamaqua, Theresa Long of Drums, Todd Martin of Stroud Township and Mary Kay Baker of Bethlehem. Longtime host Bud Wychulis returned after missing last year because of cancer treatments. A video was shown of his wife Sandy, a supporter of the telethon, who died earlier this year. Krushinsky spent a few minutes talking about longtime volunteer Cary Sinclair, who died July 17 of last year at the age of 84. "She was a longtime friend and volunteer for the American Cancer Society. She was involved with telethon, raft race, perennial volunteer for daffodil days. Just about anything the cancer society was involved in, Cary was had a hand in," Krushinsky said.

He showed an interview with Sinclair at the 2018 telethon. Sinclair talked about her journey with cancer. In 2009 she had lung cancer and doctors removed the upper lobe of her right lung. "They got it quick, so I didn't need chemo or radiation," she said. Later something was discovered in her left lung. The biopsy couldn't determine what it was so she underwent four radiation treatments. She first became involved with the cancer society in 1973. "It was rewarding to me to be able to contribute in some way. What we do has made it so much better for finding the cures," Sinclair said. She concluded, "I invite everyone out there to please give your time that you can afford and the money that you can afford to help us continue to grow and provide to those who have cancer." – **Lehighton Times-News**

The White House said on Monday it was withdrawing the nomination of Federal Communications Commission member Mike O'Rielly to serve another term, a surprising development that came after his nomination was approved by a Senate panel in July. The announcement came less than a week after Senate Armed Services Committee chairman Jim Inhofe said he would block the nomination of O'Rielly, a Republican, over the five-member FCC's unanimous decision to allow Ligado Networks to deploy a low-power nationwide mobile broadband network.

O'Rielly's withdrawal came after President Donald Trump in May demanded the Commerce Department petition the FCC asking the commission to impose new regulations on social media moderation practices. Earlier on Monday, FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said the agency would take public comment on the petition filed last week at Trump's request. O'Rielly has expressed some skepticism about whether the FCC has authority to issue new regulations covering social media companies.

O'Rielly in June expressed "deep reservations" in a C-SPAN program about whether Congress had given the FCC power to limit social media companies' legal protections. The White House declined to comment. O'Rielly, a former congressional aide who has been on the FCC since 2013, did not respond to a request for comment on Monday on whether his withdrawal was tied to his remarks on regulating social media companies. O'Rielly made comments last week that drew attention of some White House and industry officials. He said "the First Amendment protects us from limits on speech imposed by the government - not private actors - and we should all reject demands, in the name of the First Amendment, for private actors to curate or publish speech in a certain way."

He added that "like it or not, the First Amendment's protections apply to corporate entities, especially when they engage in editorial decision making. It is time to stop allowing purveyors of First Amendment gibberish to claim they support more speech, when their actions make clear that they would actually curtail it through government action." — **Reuters**

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The distrust many Americans feel toward the news media, caught up like much of the nation's problems in the partisan divide, only seems to be getting worse. That was the conclusion of a "sobering" study of attitudes toward the press conducted by Knight Foundation and Gallup and released Tuesday. Nearly half of all Americans describe the news media as "very biased," the survey found. "That's a bad thing for democracy," said John Sands, director of learning and impact at the Knight Foundation. "Our concern is that when half of Americans have some sort of doubt about the veracity of the news they consume, it's going to be impossible for our democracy to function."

The study was conducted before the coronavirus lockdown and nationwide protests over the death of George Floyd. Eight percent of respondents — the preponderance of them politically conservative — think that news media that they distrust are trying to ruin the country. The study found that 71% of Republicans have a "very" or "somewhat" unfavorable opinion of the news media, while 22% of Democrats feel the same way. Switch it around, and 54% of Democrats have a very favorable view of the media, and only 13% of Republicans feel the same way.

That divide has been documented before but only seems to be deepening, particularly among conservatives, Sands said. "We're starting to see more retrenchment among those who have already expressed deep concerns," he said. "Moving the dial on these attitudes becomes more and more difficult for media organizations." The study doesn't attempt to assign blame for these attitudes. President Donald Trump has constantly labeled journalism he doesn't like "fake news." Cable news networks Fox News Channel, MSNBC

and CNN feature evening opinion shows that are an increasingly popular pastime for viewers.

Who is to blame for the nation's political divide? Well, 48% of those questioned says the media bears a great deal of the responsibility. The study found 73% of Americans feel that too much bias in news reports is a major problem, up from 65% two years ago. Those surveyed also didn't believe much in honest mistakes. When there were inaccuracies in articles, 54% of Americans said they believed reporters misrepresented facts, while 28% said reporters were making things up in their entirety.

The picture isn't much prettier when you take a step back. Knight and Gallup said 41% of Americans have a great deal of confidence in the ability of the media to report the news fairly, down from 55% in a similar survey in 1999. Eight in 10 Americans are calling for more diversity in news. Democrats and Black people are more likely to be referring to racial and ethnic diversity; while Republicans and white people prioritize diversity in political views. In a clear message to Facebook and Twitter, nearly three-quarters of those surveyed said social media companies have to work harder to remove hateful language and inaccuracies from their platforms. Knight and Gallup conducted a random sample of 20,046 American adults between Nov. 8, 2019 and Feb. 16, 2020, and claimed a margin of error of plus or minus 1%. – **Associated Press**

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Twitter Inc. said it could pay at least \$150 million to the Federal Trade Commission related to alleged violations of a 2011 consent order for using consumers' private data in targeted advertising. The social-media platform said Monday it received a draft complaint July 28 from the FTC alleging it used phone numbers and email addresses that were given to the company for safety and security purposes for targeted advertising between 2013 and 2019. Twitter said the FTC matter could cost the company between \$150 million and \$250 million though it currently is unresolved.

Under terms of the FTC agreement finalized in 2011, Twitter isn't allowed to mislead consumers about how it "protects the security, privacy and confidentiality of nonpublic consumer information." The company is also required to establish an information-security program that would need to be reviewed by independent security auditors every other year for 10 years. The letter was received days after the company [reported its second-quarter results](#).

The company, in an email statement, confirmed receiving the FTC's draft complaint, and that it included an estimated range for the settlement based on standard accounting rules. An FTC spokesperson couldn't be reached for comment. Twitter last year dealt with [significant issues with its software](#) that hurt its ability to target users for advertisers and share data with advertisers and measurement partners. The company also [changed its rules to restrict advertisers](#) from being able to buy data from third-party firms through its systems to target users.

Twitter has also faced scrutiny over its data security protocols. On July 15, it was hit with a widespread attack that allowed hackers to take over 130 Twitter accounts, including high-profile business people, celebrities and politicians like Bill Gates, Kanye West, Joe Biden and Barack Obama. Federal authorities on Friday [charged three people including a 17-year-old from Florida](#) in connection with the hack. The incident marked the third major security issue linked to insider access to Twitter systems since the 2011 consent decree. – **Wall Street Journal**

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On Aug. 14, 1945, Japan announced its surrender to the Allies on what's now known as V-J Day, or Victory over Japan Day. V-J Day is celebrated on Sept. 2, the day the declaration was officially signed and World War II came to an end. In 2002, PCN began interviewing World War II veterans to get a rare

glimpse into experiences only those who served can tell. In 2011, the show expanded to include veterans from all conflicts up through Afghanistan and Iraq — and renamed to Voices of Veterans.

At 9 p.m. Aug. 14 and all day on Sept. 2, the public is invited to watch a marathon of World War II veterans on cable and streaming worldwide with PCN Select in remembrance of VJ Day. Interviewed veterans include: Arthur Wells, from Hellertown, a seaman first class in the U.S.; Mahlon Fink, from Sinking Springs, a corporal in the U.S. Marines during World War II – **PCN**

