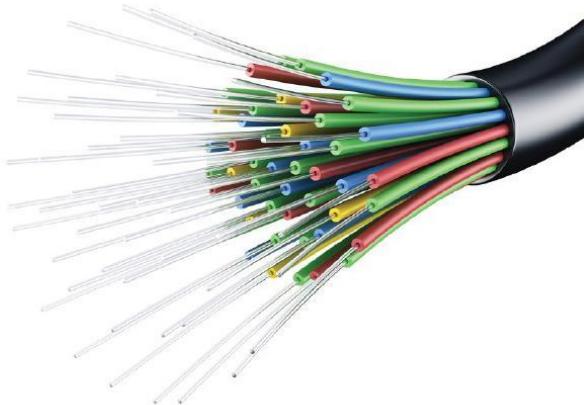


SERVING

the Lehigh Valley
(Allentown/Bethlehem/Easton)
and Wilkes-Barre in PA and
Hunterdon County in NJ

FOR OVER 70 YEARS.



Offering the Latest in State-of-the-art:



Available with our TiVo DVR at no additional fee.



TiVo with Voice Activated Remote, record 6 shows at once and 150 hours of HD programming.



Fast, reliable internet.



Speeds up to 1 Gig.



The most HD channels on cable in the area.



Unlimited calling with 25 free features.



TV2

The Leader in Local Sports.

The name that launched an industry.



NewsClips

August 7, 2020

Fierce Wireless
Verizon, AWS bring
5G MEC to Boston,
Bay Area

Washington Post
Trump issues
executive orders
against TikTok and
WeChat, citing
national security
concerns

The Hill
State Department
offers \$10M reward
for foreign election
interference
information

Reuters
Facebook's
dilemma: How to
police claims about

Golf for Kids' Sake, presented by **Service Electric Cable TV & Communications**, is an annual fundraiser supporting Big Brother Big Sisters of the Lehigh Valley. Our mission is to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. This year's event is Monday, September 14. Join in empowering the youth of the Lehigh Valley at Golf for Kids' Sake. [Click here for more information.](#)

Only about 1,200 people live in McKee, Kentucky, but the Appalachian town's residents have access to some of the fastest Internet in the United States because of the Peoples Rural Telephone Cooperative. Subscribers are able to get speeds of up to 1 gigabit per second, and the co-op is planning an upgrade to 10 gigabits, because CEO Keith Gabbard was able to wire every home and business in the county with high-speed fiber optic cable using a loan from the federal government.

It's a model other small communities are adopting -- or hoping to adopt -- in the COVID-19 era, which has forced many U.S. employees to work from home. The telecommuting trend poses a particular problem in the American heartland, where rural communities often lack high-speed Internet because their residents are neither numerous enough nor sufficiently close together to make the service profitable for corporate broadband providers that dominate the metropolitan Northeast. "The big telecom companies aren't going to do it, because it's not economical and they have shareholders to answer to,"

unproven COVID-19 vaccines

**Washington Post
Voting by mail can work, but not until we fix some things**

**Buzzfeed
Facebook Fired An Employee Who Collected Evidence Of Right-Wing Pages Getting Preferential Treatment**

**CNN
Big Tech's head-spinning rules for the 2020 election**

**CNBC
Bernie Sanders proposes one-time tax that would cost Bezos \$42.8 billion, Musk \$27.5 billion**

**Philadelphia Inquirer
Philly mail delays are raising alarms about the 2020 election: 'This is a huge problem'**

**Washington Post
Op-ed: Trump's action with the FCC's O'Rielly an assault of First Amendment**

Gabbard [told The New Yorker in December](#). "We're a co-op. We're owned by our members. We answer to each other."

A [Wednesday report in Quartz](#) said that [more than 100 cooperatives](#) across rural America are now laying miles of fiber optic cable to connect their members to high-speed Internet. Additionally, many of the co-ops started building their own networks after being unable to convince established Internet service providers to cover their localities. That said, they note that the progress in spreading coverage has been uneven.

Nevada has just one fiber optic co-op while North Dakota co-ops cover [82% of the state's land](#). Plus, there are notable racial and class divides in the states where the utilities do exist, with co-ops catering to mainly White communities and members who can sign up to pay \$50 a month or more for Internet service. For example, in Mississippi 13 rural co-ops [got state funding](#) last month to build out fiber-optic networks mainly in predominantly White areas.

None of these disparities are new for rural co-ops, though, and members argue that their cooperatives need federal funding to help reach the poorest communities -- pointing to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's [funding for power projects](#) in the 1930s. In 1935, President Franklin Roosevelt created the [Rural Electrification Administration](#), which funded [over 400 co-ops](#) and raised the percentage of farms with electricity by 80% over the next 20 years. In 1949, the REA was amended to enable co-ops to take advantage of low-interest loans to build and operate telephone services.

While there has yet to be such a cohesive effort in recent years, the government has been funneling money to other projects through grants and ["smart grid" programs](#), bringing thousands of households online. Last year, Federal Communications Commission Chair Ajit Pai announced his own broadband initiative, the [Rural Digital Opportunity Fund](#), to "bridge the digital divide" for all Americans by utilizing the [Universal Service Fund](#) to [inject billions](#) into high-speed broadband networks in places where it isn't otherwise economical over the next decade. – [Fox News](#)

The City of Philadelphia is working with Comcast and other partners to provide internet access to up to 35,000 K-12 households as the city school district opts to begin the school year online amid the Covid-19 pandemic. The \$17.1 million, two-year PHLConnectED program is designed to provide free internet access for students without reliable internet connections. The School District of Philadelphia plans to have virtual instruction until at least Nov. 17, but thousands of households in the city lack dependable access to the internet.

The city will do a bulk purchase of wired internet services through Comcast's Internet Essentials program. For students who are experiencing homelessness or home insecurity, the city will purchase Wi-Fi hotspots through T-Mobile, said Mark Wheeler, chief information officer for the City of Philadelphia. Chromebooks, tablets or computers will also be distributed. Students at city schools, charter schools and independent mission charters can participate in the program, Chief Education Officer Otis Hackney said.

The program will prioritize K-12 families who do not have internet access, have only mobile phone internet access, or who are homeless or housing-insecure. PHLConnectED will connect up to 35,000 households, encompassing up to 50,000 students and their families, Mayor Jim Kenney said. The program can also help adults in the households stay connected and shrink the "digital divide," Kenney added. Service will be wired to the home to build the capacity for everybody in the household to participate in virtual learning and telehealth, and get access to other goods and services, Wheeler said. "We're looking at this very broadly as part of a long-term digital equity strategy," Wheeler said.

The city will also make support experts, called "digital navigators," available for families who are unfamiliar with the digital landscape and may need help with

connectivity issues and other problems that may arise. The city already has three digital navigator programs in place through the Community Learning Center (CLC), the ExCITE Center at Drexel University and SEAMAAC. This initiative will build out that same model. New navigators will be hired, but they will not be city staff, Wheeler said.

PHLConnectED will cost \$9.1 million in the first year and \$8 million in the second. Philanthropic partners put up \$11 million of the funds, and the city will use \$2 million in CARES Act funding toward the program. The rest of the costs will be split among the school district and independent mission, charter and private schools. The city is also accepting donations through the [Mayor's Fund for Philadelphia](#). Initial partners for PHLConnectED are:

- City of Philadelphia
- School District of Philadelphia
- Select Charter Schools (including Mastery Schools, KIPP Charter Schools, Esperanza Charter Schools, Boys Latin Charter School, Independence Charter School, Philadelphia Charters for Excellence and Richard Allen Prep Charter)
- Comcast Corp.
- Lenfest Foundation
- Neubauer Family Foundation
- Philadelphia School Partnership
- William Penn Foundation
- Philadelphia Housing Authority

– ***Philadelphia Business Journal***

T-MobileUS Inc. said it vaulted ahead of rival AT&T Inc. in the race for wireless customers to become the country's second-largest cellphone carrier. The Bellevue, Wash., company ended June with 98.3 million U.S. customers, excluding wholesale subscribers on other brands that use its network. AT&T reported 92.9 million prepaid and postpaid customers, a tally that didn't count wholesale accounts or connected devices such as Wi-Fi hotspots and car sensors. T-Mobile included non-phone gadgets like wireless hotspots in its reported customer base.

Despite the different reporting policies, T-Mobile was long expected to climb the wireless rankings after it [closed its merger with rival Sprint in April](#). The merger effort prevailed after a more than two-year battle with regulators and antitrust enforcers that [culminated in a federal antitrust trial](#) brought by a coalition of state officials. The transaction created a larger mobile service provider with a market value topping \$100 billion controlled by German parent company Deutsche Telekom AG . “We’re staring down [Verizon](#) with our sight set on the No. 1 spot,” T-Mobile Chief Executive Mike Sievert said Thursday during a videoconference with financial analysts. Verizon Communications Inc. [ended June with 119.9 million wireless connections](#), a figure that also counted smartwatches, tablets, and other machines aside from smartphones.

T-Mobile’s second-quarter results showed it also weathered the coronavirus pandemic better than its competitors, adding 253,000 postpaid phone customers during the period. Investors place a higher value on postpaid customers—who are billed for service after it is rendered—than on prepaid plans subject to more customer switches.

Overall, T-Mobile reported a second-quarter profit of \$110 million, down from \$939 million a year earlier before it had acquired Sprint. The result included \$798 million of pretax merger costs. Revenue jumped to \$17.7 billion, up 61% from about \$11 billion a year earlier, when T-Mobile was a stand-alone carrier.

Executives warned investors to expect higher-than-usual costs in the second half, including between \$800 million and \$1 billion in merger-related expenses. T-Mobile decommissioned the Sprint brand earlier this week and continues to [close some of its former competitor's stores](#) while it merges the two companies’ networks, a multiyear process. – ***Wall Street Journal***

[Restoration PAC](#), an independent expenditure group [funded by one of the biggest spenders](#) in conservative politics, claimed this week that a new poll showing former Vice President Joe Biden with a 5.4% lead on President Donald Trump in Pennsylvania is good news.

Clout isn't sure about that. But we do think the group's sample of likely voters better reflects [the state's voter registration](#) than a previous attempt. The PAC, [as Clout reported in May](#), claimed its polling that month showed Trump up 4.7% over Biden in Pennsylvania, a result that conflicted with other polling, which showed Biden ahead. That might have been because [that May poll](#) under-sampled registered Democratic voters in the state by almost 11% while over-sampling Republicans by almost 6%. Independents were also under-sampled by almost 6%.

The [PAC's new poll](#) under-sampled Democratic voters by about 6% and over-sampled Republicans by about 2%. Independents were under-sampled by 8%. The result this time falls closer to [an average of polling in the state](#) compiled by Real Clear Politics, which puts Biden ahead by 4.7%. The PAC, funded by Illinois shipping-supplies billionaire Richard Uihlein, says it was founded because "national polling results are disjointed and hard to interpret."

Dan Curry of Restoration PAC said its pollsters don't try to weigh results by voter registration. They just keep making calls until they reach enough likely voters who meet the screening requirements. That's not how polls are supposed to work. "The partisan splits are whatever they turn out to be, without any weighting on our part," Curry said. "That accounts for the variability."

— **Chris Brennan's "Clout" column in *Philadelphia Daily News***

