



BROADBAND



DIGITAL CABLE



DIGITAL PHONE



HIGH DEFINITION



Community Channel 7

ADAMS CABLE SERVICE

19 North Main Street, Carbondale, PA 18407

1-888-222-0077 www.adamscable.com

NewsClips

September 16, 2016

[Lebanon Daily News](#)
[Comcast Business upgrades Lebanon County's network](#)

[Nashville Tennessean Google Fiber plan faces new hurdles](#)

[New York Post NYC mayor disables internet access on Wi-Fi kiosk screens](#)

[CED The Skinny on 'Diet' Pay TV Packages: Are They the Answer to Cord Cutting?](#)

[New York Times Ted Cruz Fights Internet Directory's Transfer: Techies Say](#)

The head of the U.S. Federal Communications Commission said he might change his proposal to allow tens of millions of U.S. pay TV subscribers to ditch costly set-top boxes and access video programming online.

At a Senate hearing on Thursday, FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler defended his revised proposal, which is scheduled for a final vote on Sept. 29. The plan, announced last week, lacks some of the most controversial aspects of the original proposal unveiled in January but includes a new licensing body to ensure that pay-TV companies do not enter into anti-competitive agreements.

The plan is aimed at ending the cable industry's long domination of the \$20-billion-a-year set-top box market and lowering prices for consumers. Nearly all pay-TV subscribers lease the boxes from their cable, satellite or telecommunications providers at an average annual cost of \$231. Those fees have jumped 185 percent since 1994, while the cost of televisions, computers and mobile phones has dropped 90 percent, the FCC has estimated.

STAY AT THE TOP OF YOUR GAME.

Get the cable industry's must-read, daily insider summary of all that is important, including programming, operations, ratings, people, regulations, financial news and more...

commission has the legal authority to do so. Wheeler said he would work with her to address her concerns and that he was open to making changes. Wheeler's plan has drawn fierce opposition from

[He Just Doesn't Get It](#)

[pennlive.com](#)
[Billy Graham's son to Harrisburg crowd: 'Go to the polls and hold your nose'](#)

[Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
[Sen. Casey urges NCAA to consider Pa. as destination for events moved from North Carolina](#)

[Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
[U.S. House races in Pa. highlight lack of women candidates](#)

television and content providers, including AT&T Inc, Comcast Corp and Twenty-First Century Fox Inc.

A group representing organizations including the Screen Actors Guild and Motion Picture Association of America said this week that the plan included an "unworkable de facto compulsory licensing regime that requires creators to allow their work to be shared across multiple platforms without compensation." Senator Bill Nelson, the senior Democrat on the Commerce Committee, told Wheeler on Thursday that he also had problems with the proposal. "If we stay on the present course, I fear the FCC's actions to promote set-top box competition could be tied up in court and hamstrung for years," Nelson said.

Wheeler initially proposed open standards for set-top boxes, allowing companies to re-imagine the delivery of video content. The new proposal grants device makers the ability to integrate cable companies' apps.

Cable companies have previously expressed concerns that rivals like Alphabet Inc and Apple Inc could create devices or apps and insert their own content or advertising in cable programming. The new rules would require companies covering 95 percent of U.S. TV subscribers to comply by September 2018. – **Reuters**

The "debate about debates" is finally over, according to state Rep. Doyle Heffley, R-122, Palmerton. Heffley, and his challenger, Jim Thorpe native and attorney Neil Makhija, have made headlines over the number of debates they should have in the coming weeks. "I'm just ready to put this behind us," Heffley said Wednesday. "I'm tired about debating the debates."

The subject first came to light when Makhija, the Democratic candidate in the race, challenged Heffley to "a series of five town-hall style debates in key areas in the district," according to a news release issued by Makhija. "I think it's imperative for those in our district to be able to make informed choices this election, and I wanted to go out to five key points in the area — Jim Thorpe, Lehighton, Palmerton, Weatherly and Panther Valley — and allow the constituents there to ask us questions."

This request went viral when, according to a news release from Makhija, he "hand-delivered the invitation to incumbent Heffley, at Heffley's local office in the form of a letter. When formally issued the challenge in person, Representative Heffley refused to commit and ripped up the letter." Heffley, who vehemently denies ever having ripped up the request, scolded the Makhija camp for "insincerity and childishness. "We do a televised debate and I'm happy to do it. He should've approached this with a formal certified letter or a phone call, not walking up to me on the street," Heffley said. "I will also do one better than the confusing array of forums and locations. "I suggest we look to a respected third party group to set it up and ask our local television stations to broadcast live a long-form debate that goes over all the issues facing our state and district."

Heffley may have gotten his wish. After being approached by three third-party organizations — the Jim Thorpe Tourism Agency, community group STEP-Up Carbon, and Carbon County Chamber & Economic Development, as well as Blue Ridge Cable — it appears that Heffley and Makhija will now share the debate stage twice. The mutually agreed-upon dates are the televised debate through Blue Ridge Cable and the Carbon County Chamber of Commerce on Oct. 20, as well as a town-hall forum on the heroin and opioid epidemic in Carbon County. "He wanted these to be set up by third parties, so they came to us," Makhija said. "One of these is actually the televised debate through Blue Ridge, which my opponent seemed very set on."

Makhija added, "For the debate on Blue Ridge Cable (from) Penn's Peak, I encourage the moderators to disclose that both the station and venue are owned by two of Heffley's largest donors who have given him over \$50,000 dollars — that's a tremendous amount ... Voters want the chance to look us in the eye and see what we stand for ..." Despite their differences, the two candidates do share one major issue they want to discuss — how to tackle the heroin problem. "This really is a bipartisan issue. I've been doing a lot of work in Harrisburg where we have been consistently crossing the aisle in order to make headway," Heffley said.

Makhija agrees. "In recent years, here in Carbon County, the drug epidemic has exploded and overdose calls have risen by 200 percent. I've lost too many friends to this epidemic — and our community is losing the talent of an entire generation. We need an overhaul of our approach," he said. The Opioid and Heroin Town Hall forum, to be held tentatively on Oct. 12, is aiming to feature not only Makhija and Heffley, but also U.S. Rep. Lou Barletta, R-11, Hazleton, and his challenger, Mike Marsicano, as well as U.S. Rep. Matt Cartwright, R-17, Moosic, and his challenger, Matt Connolly.

"No one is for heroin or abusive opiate use. This epidemic has hit people from all political parties, race, gender and socioeconomic levels," STEP-Up Carbon director Todd Zimmerman said. "However, the

voters want to know what each candidate may do if they are elected to their respective office on how to better combat the opiate and heroin problem." Both Heffley and Makhija understand the grave nature of this epidemic — with Makhija holding a conference on International Overdose Awareness Day, and Heffley working with lawmakers in Harrisburg on passing legislature aimed at curbing the heroin issue. "Every day we lose eight people to overdose," Heffley said. "Significant progress has been made on Pennsylvania's opioid crisis, but there is more work to do. "I am anxious to see what the General Assembly, along with Gov. Tom Wolf, can accomplish before the end of this legislative session on Nov. 30. "The lives of Pennsylvanians depend on it." — ***Hazleton Standard-Speaker***

Q: Verizon is going one better. I was notified that my equipment is obsolete. I either have to pay \$59.99 for their newer equipment or pay \$2.80 per month to maintain my current obsolete equipment. What? Of course since I am under contract for another year, what do I do? Is this a matter that I can take up with the attorney general? ---- Mary Jo, Nottingham Township, Washington County

Q: I have received a letter from Fios by Verizon informing me that the router that I now have is a discontinued older router. I have the option of purchasing a Fios Advanced Wi-Fi Router, certified pre-owned for a purchase price of \$59.99 plus taxes OR pay \$2.80 plus taxes monthly router maintenance fee. Could you please steer me to a comparable router that I can purchase myself, or would you advise purchasing the Fios pre-owned router? Unlike the Comcast reader in your column of 9/4/16 who received a free updated cable box/DVR from their supplier, Verizon is charging its customers for an upgrade!!! Since I am not the only Fios customer in the neighborhood, I am sure others would appreciate your response. ---- Dee, Franklin Park

Q: My parents have a two-year agreement with Verizon Fios for phone/cable/and internet. Several months ago my father wanted to change to Comcast but was told he would have to pay an early termination fee so he did not switch. His agreement ends in December 2016. He recently got a letter from Verizon stating that his Verizon router was old and has been discontinued. He was going to be charged \$2.80 monthly for service unless he purchased a refurbished one from Verizon for \$60.00. I called on their behalf to tell them that they are under contract for a fixed price until December. I was told that they are going to be charged the additional fee unless they bought the new router. I asked to talk to a manager but was told that none was available. I asked to disconnect the service and was told there would be an early termination penalty. What recourse do I have to prevent Verizon from unilaterally changing the agreement? Is there an agency that I can complain to? It seems to me that if the equipment is outdated that it should be replaced by Verizon as part of the service that my parents have been paying for. How do I fight this? I have all of their paperwork but can get no one at Verizon to budge. Thank you for your help in this matter. ---- Matt, Mt. Lebanon — ***Letters to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette***



127 State Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101
717.214.2000 • bcapa.com

**First in Broadband.
The Future of Broadband.®**
