

BCAP 20th Annual Skeet, Trap & Pheasant Shoot

October 17-18, 2018 · Whitetail Preserve · Conyngham, PA

Confirm your [registration](#) and [sponsorship](#). [More at bcapa.com](#).



Representing The Sportsman Channel at its Hunt.Fish.Feed dinner at Harrisburg's Bethesda Mission Thursday were (L to R) Tim Boell – Vice President, Distribution and Affiliate Marketing, Outdoor Sportsman Group Networks; Christy Benson – Director of Community Outreach, Outdoor Sportsman Group Networks; Tom Caraccioli – Vice President of Communications, Outdoor Sportsman Group.



Kristen Ritchey, Manager – External Affairs of Comcast (right), serves dinner to area homeless and disadvantaged with the help of Comcast volunteer Joan McClelland at The Sportsman Channel's Hunt.Fish.Feed dinner Thursday evening.

BCAP NewsClips

September 28, 2018

LightReading
[Comcast Business Positions Itself 'Beyond Fast'](#)

TVNewsCheck
[Retrans Importance Grows As Landscape Shifts](#)

CNET
[FCC limits fees cities can charge for 5G deployment](#)

The Sportsman Channel and Comcast teamed up to host a [Hunt.Fish.Feed](#) dinner for people experiencing homelessness and poverty in the Harrisburg area at [Bethesda Mission](#) in Harrisburg.

Executive Chef for Hunt.Fish.Feed and star of Sportsman Channel's ["The Sporting Chef," Scott Leysath](#), oversaw kitchen operations and volunteers as a meal of bison sausage sandwiches with provolone cheese and grilled peppers and onions, potato salad with eggs, bacon and rosemary and fresh fruit.

Hunt.Fish.Feed., created by Sportsman Channel, is an outreach program that taps an underutilized food source-game meat and fish donated by sportsmen-to feed those struggling with hunger across

Fierce Video

[Disney plans to sink proceeds from Fox's RSN, Sky sales into OTT products](#)

TVNewsCheck
[Stations' Election Ad Upside Keeps Growing](#)

Zap2It
[Cable Top 25 for Week Ending September 23](#)

Philadelphia Inquirer
[Philadelphia City Council passes bill that clears the way for municipal IDs](#)

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
[Sens. Toomey, Casey stick by their planned votes on Kavanaugh nomination](#)

America. The program is celebrating its tenth year and has served nearly thirty thousand meals. – [pennlive.com](#); [click here for more photos](#)

In October 2015, state officials in Kentucky signed a contract to install 3,000 miles (4,828 kilometers) of fiber optic cable to bring high-speed internet access to all 120 counties. Today, the project is at least four years behind schedule because of persistent delays that have cost taxpayers a projected \$96 million.

But a new report from Republican Auditor Mike Harmon says state officials ignored at least three written warnings about the contract. Auditors said no one interviewed could explain “why the decision to proceed was made.” Harmon said he has sent the report to the Executive Branch Ethics Commission “for further review and possible action.” “It was as if sirens were going off all around and no one was paying attention,” Harmon said.

The audit is the latest takedown of Kentucky Wired, an ambitious project hailed as an economic savior for an eastern Kentucky economy that had been devastated by the loss of coal jobs. Former Democratic Gov. Steve Beshear and Republican U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers announced the deal. Beshear left office in December 2015. Matt Bevin, his Republican successor, has committed to finishing the project. But leaders in the Republican-controlled legislature, furious about the costly delays, threatened to kill the project earlier this year. They relented when state officials told them it would likely cost taxpayers \$500 million and hurt the state’s credit rating.

The complex contract required the state to borrow more than \$300 million to build the network. The state planned to use about \$12 million in federal K-12 education money to help make its annual payments. But shortly after signing the contract, state officials learned they could not do that. Auditors said in June 2015, three months before the contract was signed, former Education Commissioner Terry Holliday wrote a letter to former Finance and Administration Cabinet Secretary Lori Flanery telling her she could not use the money to make those payments.

Flanery told investigators she was “unaware of the importance of the K-12 contract, which was the basis for 45 percent of the project funding.” Auditors noted this was “unlikely.” Most of the cables will be hung from existing utility poles. But to do that, state officials had to get permission from the companies that owned those utility poles. Auditors found state officials assumed this would be easy to do and did not allow enough time to reach these agreements. This caused significant delays in construction, which cost the private contractors lots of money. The contract required taxpayer money to cover those losses.

But in August 2015, about three weeks before the contract was signed, a private contractor warned state officials they would likely have trouble securing an agreement with AT&T, which owns thousands of poles the state needed to use. “If ATT gets cranky and agrees to proceed but does so slowly or takes a while to decide that they will not allow this - we will miss our dates,” company officials from Leducor wrote in an email to state officials.

Auditors said state officials got a third warning from the outside attorneys they hired to advise them on the contract. But they noted the “specificity or severity of this warning, and who it was addressed to

specifically, was not possible to assess because (state officials) withheld the documented communication due to a claim of attorney-client privilege.” The project is overseen by the Kentucky Communications Network Authority. Executive Director Phillip Brown said the authority has “taken significant steps to enhance general direct oversight of the project.”

When the project was announced, state officials said publicly its private sector partners were borrowing the money and assuming most of the risk for the project to protect taxpayers. But state officials later changed the terms of the deal to take advantage of tax exempt bonds. The changes lowered the overall cost of the project, but shifted most of the responsibility of the debt to taxpayers from the private sector. Harmon said state lawmakers were never told this. “‘Mislead’ does really not do justice for this bait and switch on the taxpayers,” Harmon said. Harmon said he still has questions about this and plans to continue investigating, issuing subpoenas if necessary “in an attempt to get to the bottom of what happened.” – **Associated Press**

The video-streaming service Hulu is controlled by Walt Disney, Comcast and Twenty-First Century Fox. The setup has never been ideal, and the strain may soon force ownership into the hands of one media major. On Wednesday, Fox [agreed to sell its 39 percent stake in Sky](#), after Comcast won a jaw-dropping auction that attached a \$40 billion market value to the British broadcaster.

Disney blessed the decision. The Mouse House is about to buy Fox’s entertainment and international assets, including the Sky stake, for \$71 billion. Disney’s chief executive, Bob Iger, has allowed discretion to conquer any ideas of valor: He plans to use the \$15 billion windfall from the sale to pay down debt and invest in direct-to-consumer products, including Hulu.

The Fox deal includes its 30 percent share of Hulu, which will bring Disney’s ownership up to 60 percent. Comcast holds 30 percent, while AT&T has a 10 percent interest following its acquisition of Time Warner. Disney wants the service to be a vehicle for more mature entertainment, while developing another for its family-friendly fare.

It will all be tougher if Comcast remains an owner. Earlier this month, the cable-TV group, led by Brian Roberts, appointed three directors to Hulu — its first active involvement since being sidelined for seven years by a deal struck with the U.S. government when it bought NBC Universal. That may signal its intent to hang onto the slice. But Disney will end up calling most of the operational shots. And in exchange for having a puny say, Comcast will have to pay up. Hulu is valued at around \$9 billion, according to Disney’s filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. But it lost nearly \$1.5 billion in the year to June, extrapolating from Fox’s disclosures about its share of losses.

Mr. Roberts might be tempted to stick around and poke Disney. There is a storied history between the two: He made an abortive hostile run at the Magic Kingdom more than a decade ago. But Mr. Iger’s decision to exit Sky was probably the most sensible call of this saga so far. For similar reasons, if on a much smaller scale, selling Comcast’s stake in Hulu to Disney before too long may be Mr. Roberts’ wisest choice. – **New York Times**

In the Trump era, everything is politically tribal: [Keurig coffee makers](#), [Nike socks](#), [Kellogg's cereal](#). Even [the legendary rivalry](#) between Wawa and Sheetz can't escape the gravitational pull of politics. Campaign records released this week show that Philadelphia's favorite convenience store recently donated \$10,000 to Scott Wagner, the Republican businessman running against Gov. Wolf. Wawa's political action committee donated an additional \$2,500 to Wagner's gubernatorial campaign earlier this year.

Meanwhile, the PAC for Sheetz, whose fans are based in central and Western Pennsylvania, cut a \$10,000 check to Wolf. Is there a proxy war underway in the governor's race between Wawa and Sheetz? Good God, that could ignite a civil war in Pennsylvania. In Philly, where Democrats outnumber Republicans by [7-1](#), liberal voters won't like Wawa's donations. In the western part of the state, [which has trended red in recent years](#), conservative voters will be unhappy with Sheetz's.

Wolf and Wagner seem all too aware of how politically precarious this issue is: When Clout asked the two men which side they're on, both dodged. Andrew Romeo, a spokesperson for Wagner, said he "loves all the convenience stores in Pennsylvania and will stop at whichever one is closest when he wants a coffee or an iced tea." Wolf's spokesperson, Beth Melena, said that "though he is a fan of both Wawa and Sheetz, Gov. Wolf is a Rutter's guy," referring to a hometown favorite store.

Wawa and Sheetz played it safe, too. Nick Ruffner, Sheetz's public relations manager, said the company has given to Democrats and Republicans who "promote policies that strengthen the economy of the states we serve." Wawa spokesperson Lori Bruce said the company has "a great relationship with Gov. Wolf," adding, "We also made an equal contribution within the past month to the Democratic Governors Association as part of its recent event in support of his reelection campaign."

It's not the same, Wawa. It's not the same. And besides, this isn't the first time Wawa donated to Wolf's opponent: When Wolf first ran for governor in 2014, the store contributed to his Republican rival, then-Gov. Tom Corbett. That's not the only duplicitous thing Clout discovered. Despite his professed love for Rutter's, Wolf's team hasn't spent a dime at that store this year, according to his most recent filings. His campaign *has*, however, paid \$145 to Wawa. Hey, who can blame them? It's America's greatest convenience store.

Political insiders are whispering about a mysterious new group in Pennsylvania's General Assembly races. This week, the pro-Democratic organization PA Fund for Change began airing TV advertising in a state Senate campaign in Allegheny County, according to [its website](#). It says it is targeting [nine additional races](#), most of them in the Philadelphia suburbs, where Democrats hope to gain seats in the legislature. PA Fund for Change's treasurer, according to state records, is [settlement planner George Audi](#).

That's notable because Audi was also treasurer of Pennsylvanians for Judicial Reform, a pro-Democratic super PAC that [spent more than \\$2.5 million on TV ads](#) in the 2015 state Supreme Court elections. Will PA Fund for Change fork over seven figures to help Democrats in state legislative races, too? Will it raise money from trial lawyers and

unions, [like Pennsylvanians for Judicial Reform did](#)? Asked about its donors, spending plans, and targeting decisions, the PAC revealed little. "All PA Fund for Change financial information will be reported as required by applicable law," said an email from info@pafundforchange.com. As if that weren't opaque enough, no name was attached. It came into Clout's inbox as "Executive Staff." – *Philadelphia Daily News*



**Broadband
Cable Association
of Pennsylvania**

127 State Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-214-2000 (t) 717-214-2020
bcaps.com

First in Broadband.
The Future of Broadband.®