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Much like the Standard-Speaker, in celebration of its 150 years of serving the community, the owners of WYLN TV 35 are celebrating the great honor of being named the Funfest committee's community superheroes.

The Gans family, who owns Triple J Community Broadcasting, has built their family business in our region has stayed local and continues to serve the needs of our community while contributing so much to the enrichment and betterment of our area. The late Joseph Gans Sr. along with his wife, the late Irene Gans, were pioneers and visionaries in business and community philanthropists.



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As an early cable system builder and operator, Joseph Gans Sr. designed and built Hazleton's cable television system in 1950 while working as an engineer for the local Mountain City Cable

Television company. On evenings and weekends, Gans continued building cable systems of his own in Weatherly and later in Berwick, Nuremberg, Benton, Shickshinny, Dunmore and Clarion. Eventually, Gans would become owner and operator of cable television system franchises in more than 50 communities spanning several states including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Michigan, Delaware and Arizona.

Gans became an active participant in the cable industry. He served as president of the Pennsylvania Cable Television Association, director and co-founder of the Pennsylvania Cable Television Network (PCTN), president of the Society of Cable Television Engineers (SCTE), director and board member of the National Cable Television Association (NCTA), museum director and co-founder of Cable Television Labs, and chairman of the National Independent Operators Board and was also involved in the Helping Hands Society and CHHIPS.

Mr. Gans was inducted into the Cable Television Hall of Fame in 2002 at the Cable Center in Denver, Colorado. Irene was honored by being the recipient of Pennsylvania Best 50 Women in Business Award. Through their local cable companies and partnerships with neighboring cable companies, Joseph and Irene began the first broadcast television station in the Hazleton area — originally PCTN which is now WYLN TV 35 — providing the area with local news, live local sporting events, entertainment, community events and information. WYLN TV 35 prides itself in bringing communities together through the power of

[Shapiro for Pennsylvania attorney general](#)

[Washington Post Trump getting blown out in the Philadelphia suburbs, as Pennsylvania drifts out of reach](#)

local television while providing trusted news, weather and local sports.

Joe Gans, Pat Gans and Joey Gans continue to carry on their family tradition by serving the community through WYLN-TV 35 and Penny's Classified. Gans has followed in his father's footsteps to complete the vision they both shared in family business and technology. **Presently he is a cable foundation board member, on the BCAP board for 32 years**, the PCN Board since 1982, the NCTA Board of Directors for 21 years and the the Cable Labs Board. **He is also a past chairman of the Pennsylvania Cable Association** and currently he proudly serves as the head coach of the Hazleton Area High School National Champion Shooting Club.

Other Gans-owned companies are Whitetail Preserve, Cable Equipment & Service Company and their newest company, Aerial Technologies LLC, a Hazleton-based business with a fleet of drones that are equipped with high-tech camera systems and capable of capturing high-definition video footage and photos. The pilots at Aerial Technologies have more than 60 years experience in the field and are FAA-licensed. The firm serves businesses in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Washington and Texas.

WYLN TV 35 provides NEPA with local news seen daily. WYLN TV is also home to the show "Warrior Summit Outdoors" which is carried nationwide on YouToo America. The WYLN TV family also includes programs covering all areas of local interest such as "Topic A," "The Storm," "Off the Beaten Path," "Granny's Kitchen," "Let's Talk Chiropractic," "Wellness Through Fyzical Therapy," "Getting Down to Business," "Women Today" and WYLN classics including "Chef Lou" and "Jentastic Sweets."

WYLN TV 35 is the Hazleton area's first television station to bring live coverage of scholastic sports including football, basketball, Little League and wrestling in their entirety. Live game action right to your home. WYLN TV 35 is carried on cable and broadcast from the Poconos to Williamsport and Wilkes-Barre to Allentown. The continued charitable contributions and strong ties to the community are evident in the Gans family's commitment to important causes such as the American Cancer Society, Helping Hands Society, Funfest and many other civic projects.

It was more than a quarter century ago when the Gans family first produced and broadcast the first Greater Hazleton Chapter of the American Cancer Society Telethon. Since then, millions of dollars have been raised during the event held each February. The Gans family has also offered the full resources of their cable television network to assist the Helping Hands Society, an organization dedicated to the education and therapeutic well-being of physically and emotionally challenged children.

An annual telethon broadcast on WYLN raises much needed funds for these important programs. The Gans family's commitment to the community doesn't end there. They broadcast community events throughout the coverage area and WYLN proudly broadcasts the Funfest parade, Hazleton's largest community event of the year. WYLN TV 35, also provides important community service through the broadcast of town meetings, school board meetings and other similar events.

The Gans family has also purchased the scoreboard at Harman-Geist Stadium, supported the local chapter of the American Red Cross, Palermo Heart to Heart Foundation, Dream Come True Organization, Special Olympics, Boy Scouts of America, Paws for a Cause Autism, Run for KOPS, Hazleton Area Trap and Skeet Club, Hazleton Area Outdoors Club, Hazleton Area Public Library, Valley West Little League, West Hazleton Little League and Broadband Cable Association of Pennsylvania, Hazleton Rotary Balloonfest and First Night Hazleton. The Gans family are founding members of SAFE, Supporting Autistic Families Everywhere. As WYLN TV 35 celebrates another successful year, the owners and staff would like to congratulate the Standard-Speaker on celebrating 150 years as our community's newspaper.

– **Hazleton Standard-Speaker**

(Joe Gans was also the recipient of the BCAP President's Award in 2013. Congrats to the Gans family on this recognition of their lifelong service to the Hazleton area!)

Federal officials approved broad new [privacy rules](#) on Thursday that prevent companies like AT&T and Comcast from collecting and giving out digital information about individuals — such as the websites they visited and the apps they used — in a move that creates landmark protections for internet users. By a 3-to-2 vote, the Federal Communications Commission clearly took the side of consumers. The new rules require broadband providers to obtain permission from subscribers to gather and give out data on their web browsing, app use, location and financial information. Currently, broadband providers can track users unless those individuals tell them to stop.

It was the first time the F.C.C. has passed such online protections. The agency made privacy rules for phones and cable television in the past, but high-speed internet providers, including AT&T and Verizon Communications, were not held to any privacy restrictions, even though those behemoth companies have arguably one of the most expansive views of the habits of web users. The passage of the rules deal a blow to telecommunications and cable companies like AT&T and Comcast, which rely on such user data

to serve sophisticated targeted advertising. The fallout may affect [AT&T's \\$85.4 billion bid for Time Warner](#), which was announced last week, because one of the [stated ambitions](#) of the blockbuster deal was to combine resources to move more forcefully into targeted advertising.

"There is a basic truth: It is the consumer's information," Tom Wheeler, the chairman of the F.C.C., said of the necessity of protecting internet users who want more control over how companies treat their private information. "It is not the information of the network the consumer hires to deliver that information." Privacy groups applauded the new rules, which they said brought the United States more in line with European nations that have moved aggressively to protect their citizens' online privacy. "For the first time, the public will be guaranteed that when they use broadband to connect to the internet, whether on a mobile device or personal computer, they will have the ability to decide whether and how much of their information can be gathered," said Jeffrey Chester, executive director of the Center for Digital Democracy.

The outcry from industries that depend on online user data was also swift. Cable lobbying groups called the rules a result of "regulatory opportunism," while the Association of National Advertisers labeled the regulations "unprecedented, misguided, counterproductive, and potentially extremely harmful." Even with the new rules, online privacy remains tricky. Many people have been lackadaisical about what information they give up online when they register for websites or digital services. The convenience of free services like maps also appeals to people, even though they give companies access to personal information. And some people unknowingly forgo their privacy when allowing apps or other services to track their location or follow their browsing across websites.

The F.C.C. rules also have their limits. Online ad juggernauts, including Google, Facebook and other web companies, are not subject to the new regulations. The F.C.C. does not have jurisdiction over web companies. Those companies are instead required to follow general consumer protection rules enforced by the Federal Trade Commission. That means Google does not have to explicitly ask people permission first to gather web browsing habits, for example.

AT&T, Verizon and Comcast will also still be able to gather consumers' digital data, though not as easily as before. The F.C.C. rules apply only to their broadband businesses. That would mean data from the habits of AT&T's wireless and home broadband customers would be subject to the regulations, but not data about AT&T's DirecTV users or users of the HBO Now app, which would come with the merger with Time Warner, for example. The companies also have other ways to collect information about people, including the purchase of data from brokers.

AT&T, which has criticized the privacy regulations for internet service providers, would not comment on how the rules would affect its proposed purchase of Time Warner. But it emphasized the benefits of ads that allow for free and cheaper web services. "At the end of the day, consumers desire services which shift costs away from them and toward advertisers," said Robert W. Quinn Jr., AT&T's senior executive vice president for external and legislative affairs. "We will look at the specifics of today's action, but it would appear on its face to inhibit that shift of lower costs for consumers by imposing a different set of rules on" internet service providers.

Comcast said that the rules were not needed and that the F.C.C. did not prove that broadband providers were hurting consumers. For over two decades, internet service providers "and all other internet companies have operated under the F.T.C.'s privacy regime and, during that time, the internet thrived; consumer privacy was protected," said David L. Cohen, Comcast's senior executive vice president.

Major broadband providers will have about one year to make the changes required by the new rules; the companies must notify users of their new privacy options in ways like email or dialogue boxes on websites. After the rules are in effect, broadband providers will immediately stop collecting what the F.C.C. deems sensitive data, including Social Security numbers and health data, unless a customer gives permission.

The new rules are among a set of [last-ditch moves by Mr. Wheeler](#) to make the F.C.C. a stronger watchdog over the broadband industry. Since he was appointed F.C.C. chairman in 2013, he has tried to open the cable box market in an effort to promote streaming videos, among other actions. Mr. Wheeler is entering what are probably the last few months of his tenure at the agency, as he is not expected to be reappointed by whoever becomes the next president.

The F.C.C. proposed the [broadband privacy rules](#) in March. That followed the reclassification of broadband last year into a utilitylike service, a move that required broadband to have privacy rules similar to those imposed on phone companies. Once the rules were proposed, the F.C.C. immediately faced a backlash. Cable and telecom companies created a lobbying group called the 21st Century Privacy Coalition to fight off the regulations. The group is led by Washington heavyweights like Jon Leibowitz, the former chairman of the F.T.C., and former Representative Mary Bono, Republican of California. Henry A. Waxman, former

chairman of the House Energy & Commerce Committee and a Democrat, was also hired by the 21st Century Privacy Coalition and wrote an [op-ed](#) article in The Hill to protest the rules.

Even some web companies protested the proposed rules. Google said in comments filed to the F.C.C. this month that the regulations should not include web browsing, because that does not necessarily include sensitive personal information. "Consumers benefit from responsible online advertising, individualized content, and product improvements based on browsing information," wrote Austin Schlick, Google's director of communications law.

In the end, the objections had little effect on the F.C.C. "Hopefully, this is the end of what has been the race to the bottom for online privacy, and hopefully the beginning of a race to the top," said Harold Feld, senior vice president at Public Knowledge, a nonprofit public interest group. – *New York Times*

Montgomery County's public safety department says a severed phone cable is causing "degraded service" for 911 calls to the county's emergency dispatch center. "Callers using landlines to call 9-1-1 could receive a busy signal. If that happens, the caller should use a cellular phone to call 9-1-1 or hang up and call again," the county said in a statement.

In an updated statement issued shortly before 5 p.m., officials said repairs are expected to take "at least several hours." The county's Deputy Director of Public Affairs John Corcoran said officials received a call from Verizon — which provides service to the 911 center — informing them about a severed cable and the degraded service Thursday. Officials said the cable was cut by a contractor. He could not say in exactly what area of the county it was located. – *Doylestown (Bucks Co.) Intelligencer*

The days of 717 serving as the exclusive area code for Central Pennsylvania residents are coming to an end. The state Public Utility Commission unanimously approved a plan Thursday to establish a new area code for the current 717 number planning area, according to a PUC news release. The area includes all or parts of 16 Central Pennsylvania counties, including York County.

The plan, which is expected to be implemented in 2017, was submitted by Neustar Inc., the numbering plan administrator for the state, because the supply of available 717 phone numbers is projected to be exhausted by the third quarter of 2017. Commission spokesman Nils Hagen-Frederiksen said the approved plan will now be sent to Neustar, which will generate a new area code to be used in the area.

The plan calls for the telecommunications industry to complete all necessary network preparations by March 1, 2017, and outreach to consumers, centering on the transition to 10-digit dialing, will begin once the commission determines that there is a three-month supply of 717 numbers remaining. The PUC will receive monthly updates on the supply of numbers available, Hagen-Frederiksen said. When only a one-month supply remains, the new area code will be activated and the full transition implemented over a nine-month period. The overlay is projected to extend the region's supply of telephone numbers for approximately 67 years, according to the release. – *York Dispatch*

Politicians need to get their names in front of your eyeballs. Any way they can. TV, internet, print. Hats, T-shirts, buttons. Billboards. Diner menus. Baby diapers. Drink coasters and beer koozies. Mouse pads and toilet paper. Signs on lawns, signs on buildings, signs attached to 18-wheelers parked strategically on highway overpasses.

Oh, wait - that last one pertains only to State Rep. Martina White, the Northeast Philadelphia Republican seeking re-election next month. A Clout tipster tells us - and sent a photo! - that [someone hung a big ol' Martina White sign on the side of a tractor-trailer that, in recent weeks, just happens to park on the Ashburner Street overpass in Holmesburg so all the drivers on I-95 below can catch a glimpse](#). Think of it as a bandit billboard. Clever. Very clever. Also? Totally illegal. "No, it's not legal," Officer Tanya Little, a police spokeswoman, said Thursday. "A truck can't be parked on an overpass."

The huge sign includes a photo of White and a list of endorsements, and directs drivers to her [website](#). (Although hopefully they don't visit the site while barreling down I-95.) Clout called White's campaign Thursday but didn't hear back. "If it was there when we went there, we would ticket it," Little said of the truck.

We figure White has built up some goodwill with the Philadelphia Police Department. She was elected last year with the help of the local FOP, and has introduced a bill that would prevent officials from immediately releasing the names of police officers involved in shootings. (The Assembly [passed that bill](#) Thursday and sent it to Gov. Wolf.) Little said the political sign is of no concern to police. The truck just can't park there. "As of 4:16 this afternoon, it's not there," she said. But that Friday rush-hour traffic will be hard to resist. – *Philadelphia Daily News*



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