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Plans are underway for the 39th annual American Cancer Society Telethon. Begun in 1978, the event is a major fundraiser for the Greater Hazleton Unit of the ACS and also serves as a cancer prevention education tool. The telethon will be held from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25 at a new, larger location, The Health & Wellness Center at Hazleton, 50 Moisey Drive (across from Walmart).

The event is dedicated to the memory of founders Henry and Leona Kreisl and Joseph and Irene Gans.

There will be a free health fair from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., with dozens of tricky trays and a bake sale. This year's telethon theme is "Rainbow of

Hope," representing the hope for a cure in the future and in celebration of the increasing successes experienced over the years. Local artists, dancers, and musicians donate their time to entertain viewers during WYLN's (local channel 35) live broadcast of the telethon. There will also be two fashion shows, Family Fashion for a Cure and Prom Fashion for a Cure. Honorary chairs of the telethon are members of the Gans Family.

Core committee members are co-chairs Clemie Yamona, Randy Pachence, and Jane Dougherty (also unit president); Mary Antonelli and Pat Korb, VIPs; Randi Chapin and Stacey Olian, phone training; Joe Clark, survivors' liaison; Jane Dougherty, children's art and telethon secretary; Coleen Dubitsky, decorating and makeup; Michele Girosky, producer; Pat Korb, marketing; Sherri O'Donnell, fashion shows, Diane Cusatis and Nancy Gentle, hospitality, bake sale and tricky trays; Amy Herbener and Sherry Castrine, health fair; Randy Pachence, executive producer; Donna Jean Yannuzzi, Donna Jean George, and Mary Ellen Cortese, accounting and Judy Hoppes, ACS staff.

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The telethon is a major fundraiser for the Greater Hazleton Unit and also serves as a cancer prevention education tool. The money raised goes to support, among other things, many services for cancer patients and their families, including the Cancer Information Center (1-800-ACS-2345), to speak with trained cancer information specialists), a smoking cessation hotline (1-800-QUIT-NOW), Look Good ... Feel Better (volunteer beauty professionals teach women how to care for skin and hair during cancer treatments), Reach to Recovery (breast cancer support), Road to Recovery (free transportation to treatments and medical appointments), and I Can Cope (a series of educational classes for patients and their families and friends).

The Hazleton area also has a support group, Surviving Together. Call 570-459-1212 for information on these resources. **The telethon will be broadcast live on WYLN TV on Service Electric Cablevision, Hazleton/Mahanoy City, Service Electric Cablevision TV & Communications Wilkes-Barre, and Metrocast Berwick/Schuylkill/Poconos on Channel 7.**

The telethon will also be available over the air on Channel 9 (Williamsport), Channel 24 (East Stroudsburg), Channel 35 (Hazleton) and Channel 47 (Berwick). Call 570-459-1212 (press option 3) for information. – **Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice**

AT&T raised a few eyebrows last fall when it announced experimental technology to deliver speedy “multi-gigabit” wireless Internet over existing power lines. Now that potential solution, called Project AirGig, appears much closer to becoming reality, and has moved well beyond the experimental stage.

AT&T says it is having “advanced discussions” with power companies to begin field trials of Project AirGig in at least two locations by the fall, and if all goes well commercial deployment could occur within 9 to 12 months. One of the trials will be in the U.S.; a second, quite possibly, outside the country. Project AirGig technology involves placing small low-cost plastic antennas developed by AT&T Labs on top of existing power lines. These devices create a multi-gigabit signal that travels along or near the wire--but not actually through it.

Using so-called mmWave surface wave launchers and inductive power devices, the signal can be moved from one pole to the next, and powered without a direct electrical connection. AT&T says it has secured more than 200 patents and patent applications. It also just reached an agreement to acquire a San Francisco company, FiberTower Corp, which holds mmWave spectrum rights. Terms weren't disclosed. The AirGig technology can be deployed anywhere there are power poles, AT&T says: urban environments, rural areas, overseas.

AT&T's chief strategy officer and group president, John Donovan, declined to name the power companies that AT&T is speaking with during an interview with USA TODAY. But he says an announcement of a partnership is more likely to come in “days to weeks” rather than months. And Donovan offered one hint about the first potential partner: “You can imagine it'll probably be (a power company in the) south instead of (the) north because one less variable (is) winter.”

The AirGig approach is meant to complement other technologies in the race towards ultra-fast next generation “5G” technologies. AT&T is still laying down fiber, for example, as it competes against the likes of Google and Comcast. AT&T says its fiber network is in 46 metropolitan areas across 21 states where the company offers home Internet service. It expects to reach at least 12.5 million locations across 67 metro areas by mid-2019.

For its part, Google [recently halted its Fiber rollout in ten cities](#), and a top executive departed. But AirGig also lets AT&T save money by not having to bury cables in certain areas or construct new cellular towers in others. Via AirGig, AT&T can share maintenance costs with the power companies whose poles it is piggybacking

on. “When we build networks, these are heavy capital investments. Whenever you’re doing something big...you always try to look at what are some other shared infrastructures we can take advantage of,” says Andre Fuetsch, president of AT&T Labs and chief technology officer. “This is really a perfect spot to serve not just (the) homes and businesses that these power lines are adjacent to, but also any mobile access as well, whether they’re cars or people walking around or think Internet of Things.... So that’s (one of) the big `aha’ game changer about this technology.”

Here's an animated visual of how it is supposed to work.

AT&T is looking to use the field trials of course to validate the results it has seen in the labs, where it has seen “double-digit” gigbit speeds. “In a real world setting you’ve got weather, trees, birds landing on the wires,” Fuetsch says. “And then we’re going to do this with customers to see what the experience it like. We’re optimistic about it of course but really until we get this out in the field working with the utility, the proof will be in the pudding.” – **USA Today**



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