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December 16, 2019

Associated Press
[Blumenthal, Tong to hold robocalls](#)

Local, state and federal government representatives met in King William Thursday to celebrate the long-awaited activations giving citizens access to high-speed internet, phone and cable services in

[summit to help consumers](#)

CNN
[How fake accounts pushing inflammatory content went viral – with the help of YouTube's algorithms](#)

Business Insider
[China's next gambit to save its economy will export dystopia worldwide](#)

Associated Press
[How streaming, diversity, #MeToo shaped TV decade of change](#)

Philadelphia Inquirer
[In the so-called 'War on Christmas.'](#)
[Pennsylvania is a supposed safe haven](#)

Easton Express-Times
[Suit filed in Pa. court challenges widely used electronic voting machine](#)

WHYY-TV/FM, Philadelphia
[Super PACs pour money into Pa. ahead of divisive impeachment vote](#)

Philadelphia Inquirer
[Elizabeth Warren gets campaign effort going in Pennsylvania; will open field office in Philadelphia](#)

parts of King William, King and Queen and Caroline (VA) counties. Bringing internet services to the county has been a two and half year process that will benefit the county, King William Board of Supervisor-elect and King William Internet Connectivity Chairmen Ed Moren said. "Super fast internet, cutting edge video services and advanced telecommunication solutions should be available not only to major metro areas but also throughout our state," he said. "Access to technology should not be considered a privilege anymore."

In July, the Board of Supervisors approved Atlantic Broadband's proposal to bring services to the county, and the company began laying a fiber-optic network in the Middle Peninsula. On Dec. 12, the company began the first round of activations and will continue to activate more locations in the next six months. Virginia Delegate Kieth Hodges, R-98, said internet access is crucial for people who work from home, students who need access to education resources and businesses. "We need to ensure opportunities for our children," Hodges said. "I am committed to bringing broadband to our rural community."

In March, Gov. Ralph Northam announced the Commonwealth would offer over \$3.9 million in grants to ensure all regions of the state had access to broadband internet by 2029. Atlantic Broadband's initiative is among the many working to achieve that goal, the governor's chief broadband director Evan Feinman said. Universal internet access has become a bipartisan issue as there are about 660,000 Virginians who do not have access to the internet, Feinman said. "We are in this boat together. Virginia cannot experience growth without internet," Feinman said. "We are happy to announce we are on track to meeting our goal the Governor has a plan to increase funding for broadband programs."

– *Newport News (VA) Daily Press*

Steve Burke, a Comcast Corp. executive and stalwart of the entertainment industry, is stepping down as the head of NBCUniversal next year, handing the reins to his lieutenant Jeff Shell, according to a person familiar with the matter. Burke will leave when his contract expires in August, said the person, who asked not to be identified discussing private information. Shell, the head of the film side of NBCUniversal, was given additional duties in a January shake-up, setting the stage for him to take over the business.

[Variety reported on Thursday](#) about Burke's coming departure.

Burke's exit comes at a challenging moment for NBCUniversal. The business — a sprawling entertainment operation that includes NBC, Universal Pictures, and theme parks — is preparing to launch a streaming platform called Peacock next year. The new service is up against a crowded field of competitors, including Netflix, HBO Max, Disney+ and Apple TV+. Besides the launch of Peacock, NBC will broadcast the Olympics from Tokyo starting in late July while negotiations to renew NBC's NFL broadcast rights are on the horizon. Meanwhile, NBC's broadcast and cable channels continues to grapple with declining ratings and subscribers caused by the rise of cord cutting and new online entertainment options.

Burke, 61, serves on the boards of JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Berkshire Hathaway Inc., the Warren Buffett company. His father,

Daniel, helped create Capital Cities/ABC, which was bought by Disney after Buffett helped bankroll Capital Cities' purchase of ABC. Burke's longstanding ties to Buffett's empire — including a nearly decade-long stint on the board — have led to speculation that he might take a bigger role at Berkshire.

At NBCUniversal, a succession contest has been underway for years. It's long been expected that either Shell or Mark Lazarus, who oversees broadcast, cable, sports, and news at NBCUniversal, would replace Burke as head of the business. But it wasn't clear that a change would come this soon. Burke is one of the most powerful people in the entertainment industry, and his departure will reverberate through Hollywood and New York. He began running the business in 2011 after Comcast took control of NBCUniversal from General Electric Co. He previously served as operating chief at Comcast, helping turn it into the largest U.S. cable provider. Before joining Comcast in 1998, Burke was president of ABC Broadcasting at Disney. He also helped start Disney's retail stores. Succession is also looming at Disney, where CEO Bob Iger is slated to retire at the end of 2021. — *Philadelphia Inquirer*

Whether Americans will pay more for cellphone service is at the center of arguments made by both sides battling last week over T-Mobile US Inc.'s merger with Sprint Corp.

The coalition of state attorneys general that filed the antitrust lawsuit challenging the \$26 billion merger fear consumers will pay more if the No. 3 and No. 4 U.S. carriers by subscribers combine, and that wireless industry competition will suffer. Plaintiffs' lawyers said in court that even though T-Mobile promised not to raise the price of its rate plans for three years after the deal, it could pull back on device-related promotions.

T-Mobile executives, meanwhile, testified that they would lower prices and better challenge larger rivals Verizon Communications Inc. and AT&T Inc. if the deal is approved. They said T-Mobile may have to raise prices if the transaction doesn't happen, a situation that Chief Executive John Legere called a "worst nightmare." The deal, announced more than a year and a half ago, would create a wireless company with more than 90 million U.S. customers. It also would establish a new wireless carrier by selling assets to satellite-TV provider Dish Network Corp.

Legal experts have called the states' challenge unprecedented because they brought a case without the support or involvement of federal authorities, who blessed the merger subject to certain concessions. U.S. District Judge Victor Marrero is weighing both sides' arguments. He has pressed for a speedy trial, telling lawyers to skip their customary opening arguments for expediency. Plaintiffs concluded their case partway through the week, turning it over to the defense to begin calling its roster of witnesses.

During the first week of the trial, lawyers for the states tried to show that T-Mobile has other ways to expand its network capacity. Those options include buying spectrum in public auctions or purchasing Dish—a move the firm contemplated in 2015—to gain access to the company's trove of spectrum. T-Mobile executives, meanwhile, have said that no other options are comparable to what its merger with

Sprint would yield in terms of their complementary spectrum assets and potential cost savings. The carrier's network is increasingly strained, they have said.

Judge Marrero asked Mr. Legere whether T-Mobile might become "essentially one of the boys" along with Verizon and AT&T if the deal occurs. "That's a club they wouldn't let me join even if I wanted to," Mr. Legere replied. The judge also asked the top executive why Sprint couldn't achieve a turnaround now akin to what T-Mobile was able to achieve after Mr. Legere joined in 2012 when it was in financial trouble.

Mr. Legere said T-Mobile's advantages at the time included better shareholder support than Sprint has now, as well as spectrum and cash that the company he leads received from AT&T when it abandoned efforts to buy T-Mobile in 2011. T-Mobile's condition then was "nothing compared to the distress Sprint is in at this time," he said, adding that Sprint will go away without the deal. A Sprint executive said earlier in response to a question from the judge that the No. 4 U.S. carrier by subscribers wouldn't be viable in its current form within the next two years.

Judge Marrero asked Mike Sievert, T-Mobile's chief operating officer, how the carrier's plans to lower prices compared with past promotions by Sprint that didn't work. "They marketed an offer they couldn't afford to invest behind," Mr. Sievert replied, referring to Sprint. T-Mobile, he added, is able to reduce prices and continue to invest in its network while continuing to gain customers. — *Wall Street Journal*

