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PLEASE NOTE:
BCAP Office Manager Suzette Riley (formerly Suzette Welter) has a new email address. You can reach her at sriley@bcapa.com. Thank you!

Pitcairn (Allegheny Co.) officials are counting down the last days of borough-owned cable that has served the community for decades. Council has set a firm deadline of July 31 as the last day of service for the borough's cable and Internet services. "It's a sad day, but time marches on and the world progresses," said council Vice President John Prucnal, who also heads the

cable committee.

Prucnal points to advances in technology and costs of maintenance as the culprits for ceasing operations. He said the speed of the borough's Internet was "snail-like" compared to what companies could provide at "light-speed." "We just couldn't keep up," he said, referring to major cable and Internet providers who specialize in the business.

If the borough would have attempted to upgrade equipment for

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its approximately 400 customers, it would have cost a "substantial amount of money," which is "not a wise move" for council, Prucnal said. Customers who have received service from the borough are encouraged to seek providers such as Verizon, Dish Network and DirecTV, or to purchase an antenna that will pick up between 30 and 40 viewing channels. "(Council was) hoping Comcast or Verizon might come in and say, 'Here's a special offer,' to our customers, but (neither company) has come forward," said Prucnal.

James Comunale, utility supervisor for the borough's public works department, said although it is difficult to quantify in dollars the amount the borough will save by ridding itself of the responsibility of providing the

service, he and other employees will be able to focus their time on other tasks around the community. The borough was forced to raise fees just to break even with the cost to run an outdated system that didn't offer additional channels with the increase in price. The borough had received a loan to upgrade its system in 2007 and didn't pay it off until seven years later, he said. "Our cable system was never really profitable," Comunale said.

Mayor Betsy Stevick said the history of the borough-owned cable system goes back to before 1950. Broadcast television reception for stations out in Pittsburgh was poor, so antennae were built to amplify television signals the cable system carried at that time. "It's time (to move on) — it served the borough well. We were spoiled," Stevick said.

Council still is searching for a buyer for the old equipment. Prucnal is hopeful someone will have interest in purchasing satellite dishes and other "head-end" equipment owned by the borough. At its peak, the borough-owned system had almost 1,500 customers. Prucnal, who had been a customer of Pitcairn cable for 35 years, said the borough was proud to provide a service for its residents that only a "handful" of communities in Pennsylvania could claim. "We'd like to thank all of the loyal customers we've had over the years," said the councilman. — *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*

Fox News on Tuesday sued Charter Communications Inc., the nation's second-largest cable operator, for alleged breach of contract and fraud. The lawsuit, filed in New York, comes in the wake of Charter's recent \$60 billion acquisition of Time Warner Cable. Fox News, a unit of 21st Century Fox Inc., claims Charter is illegally seeking to apply Time Warner Cable's channel-carriage rates to carry Fox News Channel and its sister channel Fox Business Network in all of its roughly 17 million homes.

According to the suit, Charter isn't adhering to a 2014 agreement it signed with Fox News to distribute the two channels and instead is applying rates from an old agreement the network had with Time Warner Cable, which has lower rates. Both the Time Warner Cable and Charter agreements with Fox News don't expire until 2018, a person familiar with the matter said.

Despite the suit, a Fox News executive said there are no plans to attempt to remove Fox News Channel or Fox Business Network from Charter's channel lineup. A spokesman for Charter said the distributor has a contract with Fox News that it expects to be honored.

Fox News is the second major programmer to accuse Charter of breaching contracts. Earlier this month, Spanish-language broadcaster Univision Communications Inc. filed a similar suit against Charter. Univision owns multiple cable networks as well as 59 local television stations. "I would expect there are other companies out there that have these issues," said Tim Carry, executive vice president of distribution for Fox News.

Fights between programmers and distributors over fees have been on the rise for the past several years. Distributors have been consolidating in large part to increase leverage in negotiations with programmers. Content companies fear that they will be squeezed by distributors, hurting profits and leaving less money to create programming.

In this tussle, Charter claimed in a letter to Fox News that the public perception that Charter acquired Time Warner Cable isn't correct. "We appreciate that, as publicly reported, the transactions were not self-explanatory," Charter said, adding that Time Warner Cable now owns and

manages the systems that were part of Charter.

Fox News's Mr. Carry said when the network negotiated the 2014 pact with Charter it took into consideration future deals with other distributors and that their agreement makes clear "anything that Charter acquires would fall under this deal." In its filing, Fox News cites several examples where Charter said it was acquiring Time Warner Cable, not the other way around, including the joint proxy statement the two companies filed in the summer of 2015.

Fox News is one of the most expensive nonsports channels in television. While the terms of its deals with Charter and Time Warner Cable haven't been disclosed, the network gets an average of fee of \$1.41 per-month, per-subscriber from pay TV providers, according to industry consulting firm SNL Kagan. Fox News parent 21st Century Fox and Wall Street Journal owner News Corp. were part of the same company until mid-2013. — **Wall Street Journal**

The chairman of Pennsylvania's Republican Party lambasted some of the country's highest-profile Republicans on Tuesday, while predicting Republicans would leave Cleveland a unified party.

Chairman Rob Gleason also predicted that GOP nominee Donald Trump will win 60 of the state's 67 counties en route to the White House. "That Jeb Bush — his career is over. He continues to whine and whine. He just keeps stoking the fire. He should look in the mirror" before complaining about how this year's Republican race turned out, Gleason said of Bush, who once was considered a front-runner to earn the nomination and who has been highly critical of Trump.

Gleason also called out former Republican presidents George W. and George H.W. Bush and former presidential candidates John McCain and Mitt Romney for not attending the convention or at least expressing support for Trump. "I'm very disappointed with that," Gleason said, noting that he has campaigned for each of the men. "They should be ashamed of themselves, that they're not supporting our party."

Gleason said he is disappointed that Ohio Gov. John Kasich has not thrown his support behind Trump, but he described the McKees Rocks native as a "really nice guy." Gleason was not critical of U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Lehigh Valley, who is skipping the convention and failed to endorse Trump. That doesn't surprise G. Terry Madonna, a political science professor at Franklin & Marshall College, because the first-term senator is seeking re-election. Madonna said he understands Gleason's frustration with the top Republicans but added that "party chairs typically don't burn bridges."

Gleason said the state party has had a good working relationship with Trump's campaign — unlike Romney's campaign, which Gleason said was controlled by a Boston team that didn't listen to outsiders. Trump's campaign operated for months with a lean professional staff before naming two Pennsylvania natives to run the campaign's state operations — David Urban of Beaver County and Ted Christian of Bucks County — but Gleason said the state party and thousands of volunteers helped Trump to victories in every Pennsylvania county during the primary.

Gleason predicted Trump will win in 60 counties in November. Clinton will be the favorite in Allegheny, Erie, Lackawanna and Philadelphia counties, he said, while Trump's campaign "needs to do a better job" in Philadelphia's five surrounding counties. Madonna said he could not recall any Republican presidential candidate carrying that many counties, noting that Democrats

typically win 13 to 18 counties but tend to dominate in urban centers. More important than the number of counties a candidate wins is "which counties you win and how much you win by," Madonna said. – ***Pittsburgh Tribune-Review***

Pennsylvania briefly stepped aside from tonight's roll call of states formally nominating Donald Trump as the Republican presidential nominee. The gesture allowed Trump's home state of New York to cast the votes that gave him more than the 1,237 votes required to earn the nomination.

Trump received a total of 1,725 votes Tuesday evening. "We were happy to do that," said state GOP party chairman Rob Gleason of deferring to New York. "It's a great thing for Mr. Trump and his family."

Pennsylvania delegates - who clapped and cheered when it was announced that Trump had become the nominee - then waited until the end of the roll call to cast their 71 votes. When the moderators circled back to Pennsylvania, Gleason announced 70 votes for Trump -- and one for Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

Out of Pennsylvania's delegates, 17 are bound to vote for the statewide winner and the rest are not bound to a particular candidate. State GOP staffers spoke with each of the delegates on Tuesday to confirm how they would cast their vote.

Gleason said he didn't know the name of the delegate who stuck with Cruz, saying only that the man was from Lancaster County and had pledged to support Cruz when he ran as a delegate. "He said I'm committed to Cruz and I said, that's fine," Gleason said. "I admire him for it." Most states offer a brief shout-out regarding their state before announcing their votes. Gleason touted Pennsylvania as "the home of Republican Sen. Pat Toomey, the home of 13 Republican congressmen, the state that will deliver the deciding 20 electoral votes on November 8," the date of the general election. – ***Allentown Morning Call***



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