



**BCAP** NewsClips

July 23, 2020

**LightReading**  
[Cogeco tests one-box small cells for mobile over cable](#)

**Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**  
[Gov. Wolf denies Blue Jays' pitch to play at PNC Park](#)

**Fierce Video**  
[Analytics firm finds 33% of cable, telco OTT subs are on promo pricing](#)

**Associated Press**  
[World in isolation, a surge of new users for Twitter](#)

**Washington Post**  
[Twitter crackdown on conspiracy theories could set agenda for other social media](#)

**Associated Press**  
[Incarcerated people look to Senate to cap prison phone rates](#)

**Reuters**  
[U.S. records 2,600 new coronavirus cases every hour as total approaches four million](#)

Atlantic Broadband, the nation's eighth-largest cable operator, today announced that it has launched Showtime Anytime, YouTube Kids and Amazon Prime Video on its TiVo platform for easy and convenient access, as well as a new TV Online App, a feature-rich mobile experience on Android and iOS devices. New Apps on Atlantic Broadband's TiVo platform that also can be viewed on a tablet, smartphone and computer:

- The Showtime Anytime App provides unlimited on-demand access to award-winning Showtime® original series, hit movies, sports, comedy, and more.
- The YouTube Kids App delivers content especially curated for young viewers, with parental control features, and filtering of videos deemed inappropriate viewing for children aged 12 and under.
- The Amazon Prime Video App allows users to stream movies and TV shows from their Prime Video account and, for Amazon Prime members, many titles are free with their Prime membership.

More Ways to Watch:

- The Atlantic Broadband TV Online App allows Atlantic Broadband DVR users to watch live TV, DVR recordings, On Demand shows on any device in the home. Users can also stream free and previously purchased On Demand content directly to their mobile device\* and can schedule DVR recordings on a mobile device from anywhere. The new App also features integrated search across streaming apps, including Netflix and Amazon Prime Video.

"Now more than ever, our customers want to connect with the content they enjoy on the device of their choice, especially as families are staying home more than usual during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Heather McCallion, Vice President of Products and Programming for Atlantic Broadband. "Our new TV Online App makes it easier than ever for viewers to discover and enjoy a deep array of content—across live TV, recorded programs, On Demand, and popular services like Netflix and Amazon Prime Video—all aggregated together in one place for the ultimate viewing experience that is convenient and easy to use."

The Android App is available for download from Google Play and the iOS app is available in the Apple App Store<sup>®</sup>. To learn more about the Atlantic Broadband TV Online App, visit <https://atlanticbb.com/support/apps> – **Miami Community Newspapers**

[Murrysville \(Westmoreland Co.\)](#) Council has approved an ordinance regulating small-wireless facilities, the infrastructure necessary to bring 5G service to the

**Harrisburg Patriot-News**

**Rally held at Capitol to protest mask mandates, Gov. Wolf's coronavirus restrictions**

**Spotlight PA**

**Gov. Tom Wolf cited his emergency powers to withhold millions from a Pa. county. Now it's suing.**

**Philadelphia Inquirer**

**Joe Biden adds more Pennsylvania staffers, including Western Pa. operatives**

area. 5G is the fifth generation of cellular service, which companies began rolling out in 2019. The Federal Communications Commission in 2018 set out a timeline requiring towns to make space available within existing rights of way. "It's a capacity issue," said Pittsburgh attorney Joseph Cortese, hired by the municipality to help develop the ordinance. "What's going on today is customers need to be closer to the sites, whether that's for 4G or 5G technology."

Companies looking to build 5G infrastructure will be required to pay an application fee of \$500, which covers up to five small cell facilities. Each additional facility is \$200. They would also be subject to annual right-of-way and attachment rate fees of \$270 for each facility. The 5G equipment also can be mounted on existing utility poles where possible. Municipal Chief Administrator Jim Morrison said staffers have received applications for rights-of-way along William Penn Highway. Council [heard a presentation](#) from 5G infrastructure provider Crown Castle Communications in September 2019. Harmar Township in Allegheny County [developed a similar ordinance](#) last year. – *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*

---

WPXI-TV (NBC, Pittsburgh) has been removed from the service of DISH Network after the satellite provider refused to agree to a fair deal for a new retransmission consent agreement with Cox Media Group. If you are currently affected by DISH's decision to deprive you of important local news and programming during these critical times, make your voice heard! Call DISH today at 1-800-333-3474 and demand that they get your local programming back. DISH has been stalling negotiations for months while it pursued a misguided legal action against CMG. Despite multiple rulings rejecting DISH's legal maneuvers, DISH still refused to do a fair deal and has now blacked out 13 CMG stations, including WPXI.

As the court highlighted, CMG cannot prevent DISH from retransmitting the stations. They go dark only if DISH so chooses. CMG is hopeful that DISH will abandon its well-worn path of blacking out TV stations to the detriment of viewers in favor of meaningful negotiations that bear a mutually beneficial deal for all parties. WPXI said: "During these times of uncertainty, it is more important than ever that our viewers know their trusted local stations are there for them, providing the news and information they need to make decisions for their families. CMG stations take pride in being resources for our communities, and we will fight to continue to fulfill this responsibility."

WPXI programming remains available for viewers to access over the air, and this dispute will not affect the vast majority of viewers, who are customers of other video providers. It should be noted that WPXI has reached agreements with virtually every other major cable and satellite distributor. – *WPXI.com*

---

AT&T Inc.'s second-quarter profit fell as the coronavirus pandemic and an already unhealthy satellite-TV business overshadowed the launch of its make-or-break streaming video service. The telecom and media giant reported about 36 million subscribers on HBO and HBO Max, an enlarged streaming video service built around the company's premium TV brand. AT&T [launched the new Max service in May](#), when a worsening coronavirus pandemic had already forced millions of U.S. viewers to hunker down at home and look for new shows to watch.

AT&T said it succeeded in steering most of its existing HBO subscribers to the new HBO Max app, partly with the help of its cable-TV partners. But the company [remained at an impasse](#) with Amazon.com Inc. and Roku Inc., two services that resell HBO, over advertising revenue sharing and other issues. HBO Max plans to launch an ad-supported version next year, when it will also expand to more countries.

AT&T's shrinking traditional-TV business showed why the company needs its new online service to succeed. The division holding its DirecTV satellite unit

lost 886,000 U.S. premium-TV subscribers and 68,000 online-only channel bundles. Its home broadband unit, which includes all but the slowest digital subscriber lines, posted a net loss of 102,000 subscribers.

The company also wrote down the value of its Vrio Latin American satellite-TV business, which has burdened its parent with slowing demand and unfavorable foreign currency exchange rates. The company lost 2.2 million connections after it closed DirecTV in Venezuela during the second quarter. Including that closure, the Latin American pay-TV unit ended June with about 10.7 million connections, down from 13.5 million a year earlier.

John Stankey, who [took over as chief executive](#) from longtime boss Randall Stephenson, said the \$12.1 billion of cash from AT&T's operations in the quarter is helping to support investments, dividend payments and debt retirement. "We are aggressively working opportunities to sharpen our focus, transform our operations and continue investing in growth areas, with the customer at the center of everything we do," he said.

AT&T's core wireless business reported a loss of 151,000 postpaid phone subscribers, a figure that included 338,000 still-active lines that the carrier took off its rolls but avoided disconnecting under the federal government's Keep Americans Connected pledge. That [voluntary forbearance program ended in July](#) after several telecom companies balked at footing the bill for more nonpaying accounts past the summer.

At the same time, the company posted a net gain of 135,000 prepaid phone customers, a sign of how many Americans' economic distress is changing how they shop for wireless plans. Prepaid accounts tend to cost less than postpaid rate plans, which bill for monthly service after it is provided. Total profit fell to \$1.23 billion, or 17 cents a share, compared with \$3.71 billion, or 51 cents, a year earlier. Reported net income included a more than \$2 billion impact from Vrio's lower valuation, higher severance payment costs and other accounting adjustments. Overall revenue fell 8.9% to \$40.95 billion.

AT&T [pulled its long-term financial guidance](#) earlier this year, citing broad economic uncertainty due to an expanding pandemic. The hazy forecast came alongside thousands of job cuts, many of which the company had planned for months as part of a workforce overhaul designed to trim its expenses. The company said its annual dividend payout ratio—its total dividends divided by free cash flow—will end 2020 in the lower-60s range after falling to 49% in the second quarter.

The disruption caused by the virus mostly hurt WarnerMedia, which along with rivals Walt Disney Co. and Comcast Corp.'s NBCUniversal, had to [idle most TV and movie production](#) and reschedule some theater releases. The media division also missed out on months of professional sports broadcasts, sapping its ad revenue. — *Wall Street Journal*

---

Four years ago at this time, Sen. Pat Toomey was [keeping such a distance from Donald Trump](#) that he refused to say whether he would vote for his own party's nominee for president. This year, Toomey is one of the Pennsylvania delegates who will formally renominate Trump, and is heading to Jacksonville, Fla., next month for the Republican National Convention.

Meanwhile, Rep. Scott Perry, a vocal Trump supporter, is skipping the event and plans to spend that time in his Harrisburg-area district, where [he faces a stiff reelection challenge](#). The split responses from the two Pennsylvania Republicans show how what is normally an easy call — attending the party's marquee event to support its presidential nominee — is laden with political and health concerns about a month before the event begins.

We asked Toomey and every Republican House member from Pennsylvania and New Jersey (11 lawmakers in all) if they plan to attend the convention, set for Aug. 24-27. Seven said or indicated they are going, three are skipping it,

and one didn't answer. Trump remains as polarizing as ever, with fervent supporters ready to punish any signs of disloyalty and fierce critics eager to pounce on anyone seen to be enabling him. Yet [he has been steadily sinking in public polling](#). And on top of that, his convention — already moved from Charlotte because of coronavirus worries there — is now [set to take place in one of the country's hot spots for the pandemic](#). Details of what events will look like, how large they will be, and if they'll be indoors or outside, remain unclear.

Democrats have already moved to an [almost entirely virtual convention](#) and told their delegates to stay home. Here's what local Republicans in Congress said about their party's event. We'll update this if we hear back from other members.

- Sen. Pat Toomey – “Senator Toomey is currently planning to attend a portion of the [convention],” spokesman Steve Kelly said in an email. Asked about the senator's change of views since the last election (when Toomey announced his support for Trump on Election Day), Kelly wrote, “Since 2017, he has worked with President Trump on several issues, including the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and supporting Pennsylvania's natural gas sector. Senator Toomey is supporting the president's re-election and was named an at-large delegate by PA GOP Chairman Lawrence Tabas.” Toomey isn't on the ballot this year. His Senate term is up in 2022, when he could seek reelection but is also widely seen as [considering a run for governor](#).
- Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick – “The Congressman had planned on staying in his district working on constituent matters that week,” wrote campaign spokeswoman Kate Constantini. Fitzpatrick, of Bucks County, is [seeking reelection in a tough swing district](#) Trump narrowly lost in 2016. Democrat [Christina Finello is challenging](#) him.
- Rep. Fred Keller – Keller's office did not respond to inquiries, but he is an at-large delegate to the convention and [tweeted earlier this month](#) that he is “honored to serve” at the convention.
- Rep. Mike Kelly – “At this time, the Congressman plans on attending to support the president,” wrote his campaign manager, Melanie Brewer. Kelly, from Erie County, is a strong Trump supporter who faced an unusually close 2018 reelection.
- Rep. Dan Meuser – “Congressman Meuser is attending the RNC Convention,” wrote campaign spokesman Mike Barley. “Congressman Meuser fully supports President Donald Trump and is active in supporting his re-election.”
- Rep. Scott Perry – “Congressman Perry is not planning on attending the convention this year,” emailed campaign spokesman Matt Beynon. “He will be spending that week working in the district for his constituents.” In a changing district that still leans right, but less so than before, Perry won reelection by just two percentage points in 2018. His race this year against Auditor General Eugene DePasquale is [expected to be one of the toughest in the state](#).
- Rep. Guy Reschenthaler – He is planning to attend, his spokeswoman said.
- Rep. John Joyce – He is planning to attend, his spokeswoman said.

Did not respond – Rep. Lloyd Smucker. Smucker – like Joyce, Keller, Meuser and Reschenthaler – collectively represent the most conservative districts in Pennsylvania and all have been consistent Trump supporters. – ***Philadelphia Inquirer***

---

Gov. Tom Wolf, whose hardline leadership during the COVID-19 crisis features both missteps and sound judgement, these days could do with a chill pill. Yes, he still draws favorable ratings: 67 percent of voters approve his handling of the outbreak, according to last week's [Monmouth University Poll](#). Yes, Wolf has (so far) kept us from becoming the virus triage area seen in other states. And that's of paramount import.

But escalating partisan tiffs, over his social restrictions, restaurant rules, emergency powers, even government transparency, threaten to mar the

credibility Wolf needs to best lead the state and deal with the virus as we move forward. For example: The Democratic governor's head-bang with Lebanon County is a bad message of power politics ahead of people. Wrong in normal times. Worse now.

Wolf withheld the county's due share, \$12.8 million, of federal coronavirus relief funds, money to help small business, first responders, non-profits, those with mental health issues and more. It should have been distributed by July 15. All counties get such funding, some directly from the feds. Most, including Lebanon, through block grants appropriated by acts of the legislature, which Wolf signed into law. But because two of the three Lebanon County commissioners, both Republicans, voted in May to move the county from Wolf's lockdown "red" phase to the slow-opening "yellow" phase without Wolf's say so, Wolf turned off the funding spigot. "There are consequences," he said, to not following his rules for safety.

But Lebanon County has 140,000-plus residents. If their safety suffered due to local action, they now should suffer financially due to state action? How is it right to punish many people because of how two people voted? Well, Wolf suggested county voters might want to, "Think twice about reelecting them." (Given how Lebanon County's likely feeling about Wolf right now, I'm thinking that could amount to an endorsement.)

GOP lawmakers representing all or parts of Lebanon County, including Sen. Dave Arnold and Reps. Sue Helm and Frank Ryan, slammed Wolf on social media for "petty tyranny." Even the normally staid fiscal wonk, Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Pat Browne, R-Lehigh County, called on Wolf to release the money, "As is required by law." Didn't hear much from the other side. Guess party-of-the-people Democrats see Wolf's decision as just.

I see it setting us off on yet another tangent and further legal fights to distract all concerned from what should be a full focus on surviving the virus and its implications, economic, educational and otherwise. Wolf could easily tone things down with just some modification of his "I-and-only-I-can-save-my-people" approach. It's an approach that invites outspoken political opposition. And that injects politics into folks' thinking, and into choices they make when it comes to wearing masks or following other state recommendations.

Senate Republican Leader Jake Corman hits Wolf for his "refusal to work with the General Assembly." House Republican Leader Kerry Benninghoff talks of Wolf's "continued overreach and misuse of power." And, of course, Butler County's never subtle GOP Rep. Daryl Metcalfe calls for Wolf to be impeached or resign.

Public officials have constituents who listen to them. And those constituents can use what they hear to justify decisions they make, in this instance, about health and safety. I'm not saying the legislature – too often a confederacy of dunces – should run the show. But how hard can it be for Wolf to sit down and share some responsibility, or even just thoughts, in order to keep potentially-harmful partisan babble at bay?

Wolf's missteps, including his essential/non-essential business waiver fiasco, calling GOP officials cowards and marching in a Black Lives Matters crowd after telling everyone to stay out of crowds, are outweighed by his overall management of a novel crisis, and the state's standing (so far) compared to other states. But this health/economic disaster isn't over. It was politicized nationally from the start. It's become that in Pennsylvania. And it'll be hard to pull it back to where it belongs, as a health issue and not an ideological one.

Still, Wolf and Republicans have the power to do that. To turn down the noise. To drop the attitude that encourages confrontation. To focus on policy not politics. And they should. For all citizens of the state. Even those living in Lebanon County. – **John Baer's column in *Harrisburg Patriot-News***



**Broadband  
Cable Association  
of Pennsylvania**

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

First in Broadband.  
The Future of Broadband.®