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Patrons of the Juniata County Library now have access to the only public place that offers free fiber internet in Juniata County. Thanks to a suggestion from the Juniata County Commissioners, the library was able to "piggy back" off the courthouse's fiber internet service and get a direct line from the courthouse to have the infrastructure put in place at the library by Nittany Media.

Vince Giordano, director of the library, said the library has been looking to upgrade its internet and phone service from DSL due to the high cost, its unreliable service and slow upload and download speeds. With the switch to fiber internet, the library is now able to better economize its internet package and improve its speeds, with the added benefit of staying local with Nittany Media and paying less for internet service.

"We have a great partnership with Nittany Media," Giordano said. "They donated the infrastructure for the WiFi because they believe in libraries. I didn't think it was possible to have this. We are very fortunate they (Nittany Media) could fit us in and get us a direct line to it." Because of the demands of the modern era, Giordano said it is imperative for the library to provide fast, reliable internet to the public.

"Broadband access to the internet is enormously important to fulfilling the mission and role of libraries in the 21st Century to serve the American public," he said. "People of all ages and backgrounds increasingly depend upon the local library's public access computers and internet access and support to search for jobs, take classes, complete homework assignments, obtain medical information and receive government information and services."

He also said a local library's internet capabilities can play an essential role in disaster planning and the provision of emergency services, which are essential for the public's wellbeing. With the upgrade, speeds have increased from up to 25MBs for downloading or uploading to now having 600MBs for both. Giordano said patrons have noticed the improved service and since beginning the service in July, he has seen many new patrons at the library. The new service also allows the staff to offer great customer service that is swift and stable since more things involve the internet.

For Gov. Wolf in 2018, a Wagnerian dilemma

Coming this fall, the library will be offering computer classes to take advantage of fiber internet. Until then, Giordano invites everyone to come to the library, get a card and discover all that can be done and found there. – **Lewistown (Mifflin Co.) Sentinel**

Walt Disney Co. Chief Executive Robert Iger gave investors a preview of what he wants his company's next chapter to be.

After several years of assuaging investors nervous about cord-cutting and competition from streaming giants such as Netflix Inc., Mr. Iger, on a conference call with Wall Street analysts Tuesday, focused on Disney's high-stakes plan to fight back: the company's own direct-to-consumer offerings and a pending \$71.3 billion acquisition of 21st Century Fox Inc.'s entertainment assets. "Consumers are picking and choosing from all of the options in the market," said Mr. Iger, in remarks after Disney's release of quarterly financial results. "We continue to move full steam ahead on our direct-to-consumer strategy."

Mr. Iger has reorganized his company and is spending heavily to implement that strategy. In the three months since his previous earnings call, Mr. Iger won a bidding war with Comcast Corp. for the Fox assets, which include the company's film and television studios, as well as media company Star India and the Sky PLC pay-television operator. The deal has already been [approved by U.S. authorities at the Justice Department](#) but still needs clearance from several foreign jurisdictions.

If the deal closes, as Disney says it expects it to next year, it will put the company responsible for "Avatar" and "The Simpsons" under the same roof as Mickey Mouse, Luke Skywalker and "The Avengers." Those brands will then be used to sell consumers on a Disney-branded streaming service set to launch in late 2019. Mr. Iger's hope is that the strength of Disney's brand and characters will allow it to compete in a crowded streaming market and "thrive alongside Netflix, Amazon and anyone else," he said.

The focus on direct-to-consumer offerings will suddenly put Disney, a company best known for traditional film and television entertainment, in charge of three separate digital services. The company's ESPN Plus sports-programming streaming service was launched earlier this year, and Disney will become a majority owner of Hulu if the Fox deal closes. Hulu is a joint venture among Disney, Fox and Comcast's NBCUniversal. "They will basically be designed to attract different tastes or different audience demographics," said Mr. Iger, referring to the three different services. The company might bundle the subscriptions for customers who want all three, he added.

Disney's streaming service, featuring programming that includes "Star Wars" and "High School Musical," will have fewer titles than an "aggregation" service like Netflix, he said, and will instead rely on consumers' perceived demand for the company's franchises. The Disney service "does not have to have close to the volume of what Netflix has because of the value of the brands," Mr. Iger said.

It remains unclear how exactly Fox's film and television assets will fit under the Disney roof, but Mr. Iger nodded to some plans on the call Tuesday. The company's Fox Searchlight label, responsible for recent

best-picture winners such as “12 Years a Slave” and “The Shape of Water,” will likely produce for streaming services with original film and television projects, he said. Fox’s film studio will continue work on existing series, he said, including planned sequels to “Avatar,” “The Fantastic Four” and “X-Men.” Mr. Iger indicated that such films will remain traditional theatrical releases, rather than be produced for streaming-service distribution.

The company said certain expenses for its third fiscal quarter almost doubled from the same period a year earlier to \$196 million. That increase stemmed partly from its agreements to buy the 21st Century Fox assets, as well as higher compensation costs, Disney said. 21st Century Fox and News Corp., parent company of The Wall Street Journal, share common ownership.

Control of Sky remains an open question for Disney. Comcast is still angling for control of the European pay-TV operator, and currently has the lead with a bid that values Sky at \$34 billion, or about 5% higher than Fox’s most recent offer. Another round of offers would come from Fox, but Disney has the right to veto any deal and effectively end the standoff because it would acquire the Sky stake when its deal closes.

On Tuesday, Fox posted its Sky offer document, satisfying a requirement under U.K. takeover rules and giving it more time to respond to Comcast’s higher offer. Mr. Iger indicated Tuesday that he wanted to win Sky, citing it as one of the Fox international assets that fit into Disney’s “global growth strategy.” In the third quarter, Disney posted year-over-year increases in net income and revenue, if not to the extent that most Wall Street analysts expected. Revenue climbed 7% to \$15.2 billion and net income rose 23% to \$2.9 billion.

Revenue was driven by a 20% increase in the company’s studio-entertainment division. Disney’s “The Incredibles 2” set a box-office record during the quarter, becoming the top-grossing animated film to date with nearly \$600 million in the U.S. and Canada. Another major release for the quarter, “Avengers: Infinity War,” has collected more than \$2 billion world-wide. Disney’s film arm had a rare misstep during the quarter, too, with “Solo,” now the lowest-grossing “Star Wars” title in history at \$213 million. — **Wall Street Journal;** [more from Bloomberg](#)

Almost from the outset of a blockbuster six-week trial this spring, the Justice Department appeared to struggle to convince U.S. District Judge Richard Leon that he should block AT&T Inc.’s planned acquisition of Time Warner Inc. Newly unsealed transcripts—from private bench conferences during the trial between Judge Leon and lawyers for both sides—show the government was having even more difficulty with the judge than it appeared. The transcripts, numbering hundreds of pages, show there were effectively two sets of proceedings at trial: the public witness testimony and a concurrent private dialogue between Judge Leon and the parties at the bench.

Judge Leon, [who ruled for the companies in June](#), on several occasions criticized Justice Department lawyers for seeking to introduce evidence he didn’t find relevant or for belaboring certain points, the transcripts show. “If you start repeating this stuff again, I’m going to publicly tell you I’ve heard this,” Judge Leon told one department lawyer at the bench. “I don’t want to do that, but I will.” “Don’t wear out your

welcome,” he told the same lawyer later in the trial when he felt DOJ was seeking to reargue an issue it had already lost.

“Don’t try to pull that kind of crap in this courtroom,” Judge Leon told another DOJ lawyer when he felt she was being disingenuous about the timing of an internal AT&T document. “You be direct and honest about what you’re doing. You work for the Department of Justice. You get it?” The judge also questioned at one point whether some of the department lawyers were senior enough to keep the case moving along at the pace he wanted. “He’s had a lot of youngsters come up,” Judge Leon said, referring to some of the lawyers working under DOJ trial attorney Craig Conrath.

The bench conferences were held in public view, but with static playing over speakers so the audience couldn’t hear. Some of those discussions involved confidential business information that couldn’t be revealed in public, and the transcripts show Judge Leon was concerned about sensitive corporate data being revealed by accident.

But they also show that many of the discussions didn’t involve confidential information, including most of the judge’s rulings on what types of evidence and questions could be raised during the proceedings. The Justice Department was on the losing end of many of those decisions. The department is appealing Judge Leon’s ruling allowing the merger, arguing the judge ignored economic principles in ruling for AT&T. In a brief filed Monday, the department also said the judge “substantially constrained the government’s presentation of evidence.”

AT&T lawyers throughout the trial argued there were good reasons to exclude some of the government’s evidence. Jeffrey Jacobovitz, an antitrust lawyer with Arnall Golden Gregory LLP who isn’t connected with the case, said judges have their own styles for administering trials, though sidebar conferences generally happen more in jury trials, so jurors won’t be influenced. There was no jury in the AT&T trial. “It’s unusual for a judge to have voluminous sidebars when it’s the judge resolving the ultimate issues,” Mr. Jacobovitz said.

The Justice Department and the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press requested that the transcripts be unsealed, and AT&T didn’t object. Judge Leon last week agreed to release much of the material. The transcripts show the judge was concerned about managing such a high-stakes trial in a relatively short time, since the companies needed a ruling before their merger agreement expired.

He was bothered that the Justice Department’s chief economic witness, University of California, Berkeley Professor Carl Shapiro, was scheduled to appear in a different case in Virginia right after his appearance in the AT&T trial. “Mr. Shapiro needs to be told under no uncertain terms, don’t be giving any judge somewhere else the assurance that he’ll be there on Thursday morning,” Judge Leon said. He also suggested it would take some work to keep both sides’ experts from being long-winded. Expert witnesses “think they’re the smartest thing ever, and they know all the answers and they know all the nuances and blah, blah, blah,” the judge said.

In one unusual moment, AT&T’s lead trial counsel Daniel Petrocelli said to Judge Leon that another lawyer on his team “was asked to

make an anonymous contribution to a fund for the unveiling of your portrait. He would like to do so and I cleared it with Mr. Conrath, but it's totally anonymous." "I have no involvement in the collection process for the portrait, as is the standard practice of all judges," Judge Leon responded, adding "I don't even know who gives anything." "I just didn't want it to be any issue here," Mr. Petrocelli responded.

Arthur Hellman, a University of Pittsburgh law professor who specializes in judicial ethics, said Judge Leon "acted properly in saying I've done my best to distance myself from the effort." "Something like this is inevitably fraught with questions," Mr. Hellman said, but added that judicial portraits are unveiled "all the time." Frequently it is former law clerks who pay for them, he said.

The transcripts also shed more light on the judge's mood throughout the proceedings. At times he engaged in lighthearted banter with lawyers for both sides, especially Mr. Petrocelli, including over his New Jersey roots. "You always struck me like a Jersey guy," Judge Leon told Mr. Petrocelli, later adding, "Lot of Springsteen." After one long trial day, the judge told Mr. Petrocelli, "Have a nice drink. You'll feel better." "Two," Mr. Petrocelli said. "Get two," the judge responded. – *Wall Street Journal*



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