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For 20 years, [Brian Lockman](#) has hosted a Pennsylvania Cable Network show interviewing authors of books written about the state's history, people and culture and on Oct. 21 he'll talk about some of his favorites at Northern Tier Regional Library.

"I (recently) did program No. 857, so that's 857 authors of books on Pennsylvania," said Lockman, who is president and CEO at PCN. "I've learned a lot about the state's history and people and culture and tell stories that are about Pennsylvania history and some obscure things that people might not know." For instance, he said, who the state is named after and against what state Pennsylvania fought a border war.

Lockman came to PCN in 1994 after getting his start in television with C-SPAN. That network did a show he loved called "Booknotes," so when he came to PCN, Lockman said he "shamelessly ripped off the idea" to start doing a similar program talking to authors of nonfiction books about Pennsylvania. "I didn't want to do Pa. authors because you could have a Pa. author who wrote a book about the Roman Empire," said Lockman, a native of Norwood, Pa., in Delaware County. "I wanted people to learn something about Pennsylvania when they watched the program. We have great history and there've been lots of books published about Pennsylvania. We do about 40 new programs a year and never seem to run out of new and interesting topics."

Lockman's favorite thing is when he learns something about the state he didn't know, which still happens quite a bit, he said. The state is filled with fascinating facts about history, such as Harrisburg hosting the first Whig Party convention where they nominated William Henry Harrison for president, or the role that the Cumberland Valley Railroad between Harrisburg and Winchester, Va., played in the Civil War. "We do a lot of biographies and there's one about a guy named Ed Delahanty who played for the Phillies in the 1890s," he said. "He was also the greatest player in baseball history to die by going over Niagara Falls. It turns out he had a drinking problem and late in his career he was on a train and they put him off. He went stumbling along the railroad, fell in the river and went over the falls. There's tons of fascinating stories from all across the state."

Lockman announced his retirement earlier this month, effective March 31, 2020. He said he will still keep hosting the book show and will have his hands in the goings-on at the network a bit, but will step back from

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machines
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On impeachment,
Doyle pushes
forward while Lamb
waits to see

the administrative part and enjoy life a little more. "I'll have more time to play the fiddle," he said. "And I'll be going around doing talks like these and spreading the word about history." – **Pittsburgh Tribune-Review**

When net neutrality advocates lost a fight at the Federal Communications Commission in December 2017, states entered the battlefield. One bill supporting net neutrality in the Pennsylvania Legislature would have the state join the fight in opposition to the Trump administration.

Net neutrality is the principle that internet providers like AT&T or Verizon must act in a manner analogous to phone service providers, which provide the same connection regardless of who is calling. Some computer scientists and security experts worry that without net neutrality a small number of internet service providers could block or delay content they don't like.

In response to those concerns, an Obama-era regulation forbade internet providers from blocking or slowing websites or offering faster speeds to websites willing to pay more. However, net neutrality also has opposition from the telecommunications giants and free market advocates, who say it could increase costs that providers pass along to consumers. They also argue the policy is unnecessary because internet service providers would likely take a public relations hit if they deliberately slowed internet speeds.

In December 2017, the Trump-era Federal Communications Commission rescinded the net neutrality rules by a 3-2 party-line vote. This led California and several other states to pass their own net neutrality bills. As of May 2019, there had been net neutrality bills or resolutions introduced in 29 states, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. However, state bills that have passed have run into still-ongoing legal disputes with the Trump administration over whether states can legally contradict FCC policy with their own net neutrality regulations.

Rep. Elizabeth Fiedler's Pennsylvania bill would prohibit internet service providers from blocking or impairing lawful internet content or giving preferable treatment to content. It would also define internet service providers as public utilities, granting the Public Utility Commission authority to enforce the net neutrality law. "Most people get their internet access from a handful of big companies, including AT&T, Comcast and Verizon. Under current law, the company you pay for your internet service could prevent you from going to a competitor's website, interfere with speech that criticizes the company, or even block your access to a union website during a labor conflict at work," Fiedler said in a news release. "We rely on the internet for so much of our communication with work, school, government and family, and for financial transactions including purchases and bill paying. We need to protect our equal access to information on the internet."

Of course, state bills also run into opposition from opponents of net neutrality. For example, the libertarian Cato Institute blasted a 2018 Pennsylvania Senate bill, saying it would financially handcuff internet service providers and likely lead them to raise costs or reduce efforts to upgrade their networks. Fiedler's bill has not received a committee vote in the Republican-controlled House. – **Carlisle Sentinel**

AT&T Inc.'s chief operating officer defended the company's strategy in the media business and said it doesn't plan to sell its DirecTV unit, viewing the satellite TV provider as central to its ambitions in streaming video. In an interview, John Stankey said, "DirecTV is an important part of what we're going to be doing going forward."

The Wall Street Journal reported last week that AT&T was examining whether to part ways with DirecTV, and that the company had considered options such as a sale or spinoff. Mr. Stankey said AT&T has studied its options for DirecTV as part of broader portfolio reviews. "We're constantly looking at the portfolio," he said. "That's the normal course of business and it's not unique to DirecTV."

Elliott Management Corp., an activist investment firm that disclosed a significant stake in AT&T this month, has called on the company to shed assets and reassess its plans to transform into an entertainment colossus. AT&T bought DirecTV for \$49 billion in 2015 and last year purchased Time Warner Inc. in a deal valued at \$81 billion. Mr. Stankey said asset reviews had been done before Elliott went public with its concerns.

Although DirecTV has hemorrhaged subscribers as consumers cancel their TV service, Mr. Stankey said it would play a significant role when the company launches a subscription video-streaming product next year that brings together content from its WarnerMedia unit, which includes HBO and Warner Bros. AT&T is looking for traditional pay-TV distributors to be involved in rolling out the online service. He also said DirecTV is an important part of the company's advertising business, given the data it provides to allow for more targeted marketing.

Mr. Stankey, 56 years old, was elevated earlier this month to a newly created chief operating officer role at AT&T, putting him in line to succeed Chief Executive Randall Stephenson. Mr. Stankey continues to serve as chief of the WarnerMedia division and said there are no plans for him to give up the role. "I'm not looking to find my successor right at the moment," he said. Acquiring DirecTV instantly made AT&T the largest pay-TV distributor, but it has been ravaged by service cancellations. AT&T had 23 million U.S. pay-TV customers at the end of the second quarter, some three million fewer than at the time of the 2015 acquisition.

Mr. Stankey attributed some of DirecTV's woes to its inability to offer all subscribers service bundles that include high-speed internet access, unlike cable operators such as Comcast Corp. that offer TV, voice and internet bundles. "Where we've built better broadband, the business is performing just fine," Mr. Stankey said. One of Mr. Stankey's biggest priorities is HBO Max, the new streaming service that will compete with Netflix Inc. and other offerings in the works from Walt Disney Co., Comcast and Apple Inc.

Mr. Stankey declined to comment on the price of HBO Max. It is expected to be higher than \$15 a month, which is what HBO costs, people familiar with the matter have said. That would be more expensive than Netflix, whose most popular plan is \$13 a month. Disney's Disney+ is being sold for \$6.99 a month while Apple's offering is \$4.99. "Higher quality should warrant a slightly higher price," Mr.

Stankey said. HBO Max will include all of HBO's programming as well as original and library content.

Mr. Stankey said companies are setting prices according to their differing business models. Apple can set a low price, in part because it is looking to use video "to sell a lot of hardware" at a high profit margin, he said. Apple TV+ will come free for a year with the purchase of a new iPhone, iPad or iMac. Disney likely wants to keep its price low, Mr. Stankey said, because the monthly cable bills consumers pay already reflect substantial charges for Disney's channels, including ESPN. "I think that's just natural for their business model," he said. Representatives of Apple and Disney declined to comment.

HBO, he said, is already a "a premium discretionary product that over 30 million households say they want at \$15 a month." After AT&T's acquisition of Time Warner, Mr. Stankey combined the HBO and Turner cable units, leading to the departure of the top executives in each division. The Warner Bros. movie and television studio is now more closely aligned with the rest of the company than in the past. "Did we have three of everything when we closed this transaction? We did. Can you be successful in media as three subscale businesses moving forward when all these companies are consolidating to get scale and play at scale? I don't think so," Mr. Stankey said.

Some of the people who left, Mr. Stankey said, could have remained if they wanted. "Sometimes you want the person to stay, but they look at it and say, 'this is not my cup of tea,'" Mr. Stankey said, or "my sandbox has changed." Mr. Stankey said his leadership team, including WarnerMedia Entertainment Chairman Robert Greenblatt and Warner Bros. Chief Executive Ann Sarnoff, "subscribes to the direction we're headed and are energized about it."

Mr. Stankey said he values input from his people, disputing criticism from some former Time Warner executives. "We got to the restructuring of this business through the input of the people who ultimately wanted to play," he said. "Now there were some people who didn't really want to play and maybe they didn't get a lot of input." –

Wall Street Journal

