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October 19-20, 2016 Whitetail Preserve Conyngham, PA

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A block of rooms has been reserved at the [Hampton Inn, Hazleton](#), located just west of Exit 145 (West Hazleton) of I-81, off PA 93 at Top of the Eighties Road. Room rate is \$99.00, tax not included (CUTOFF DATE SEPTEMBER 20). Please call the Hampton Inn at 570-454-3449 to make your reservation and specify you are with the "Broadband Cable Group."

BCAP NewsClips

September 14, 2016

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Pittsburgh Business Times
[Pa.'s insufferable business climate](#)

Allentown Morning Call
[Politically tinged lawsuit could affect PA's Right to Know Law](#)

Nearly 1,000 people have preregistered for Lancaster's municipal broadband network and nearly 600 have applied to be early adopters. [Preregistration was announced a month](#) ago to help MAW Communications Inc. figure how to proceed with installation. The early adopter program will allow some residents to get free installation and three months of free service in exchange for feedback so it can work out any kinks with installation, quality and billing, according to MAW.

The city is paying the Reading-based company \$500,000 to install the system. MAW will make money on installation and a portion of service plan costs. The city will also receive a percentage of subscription revenues. Charlotte Katzenmoyer, the city's public works director was pleased with the response rate. "I am very happy with the response to date given that we have not sent out anything directly to residents, which will be the next step for sign up before the end of the year and as part of our smart metering outreach," she said Monday.

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The fiber-optic network is primarily to improve city services, but it will also enable subscribers to buy connection speeds up to 1 gigabit per second. Currently, high-speed generally means download speeds of faster than 20 megabits per second — a gigabit is 1024 megabits. As one example of improved services, the city is installing transmitters on water meters so usage can be read remotely. That's expected to save the city an estimated \$170,000 to \$200,000 a year, according to city officials. The system will also allow leaks to be detected earlier because remote readings will take place multiple times a day instead of once every three months.

MAW will be releasing more information about the early adopter program within the next few weeks and is working on applicant selection. Registration for the early-adopter program is still open at LanCityConnect.com. Home installation is expected to start next year.

Service will be offered at four levels, ranging

from \$35 a month for 50 Mbps to \$90 a month for 1 Gbps. A subsidized rate will be offered for low-income families. The rates are lower than comparable plans from Comcast and Verizon, the main internet service providers in the area. Comcast's top speed, 150 Mbps, is about \$83 a month. Among those who signed up to be early adopters, 81 percent (439 residents) listed Comcast as their service provider.

Under state law, the city had to offer right-of-first refusal to build such a system to its predominant telecommunications carrier — Verizon, which declined to build such a system in Feb. 2015. — **Lancaster Intelligencer-Journal**

Having a free market was fun, wasn't it? Unfortunately, more and more - the fun's over. Take what we watch on television. It has been for two decades now an ever-expanding free market Xanadu. We've been joking for years about the amazing number of channels we have from which to choose. For instance, Comcast's most basic current package has over 90 - and you can get more than 180 should you wish.

And that's just cable - then there are the alternative content providers. And companies like Netflix and

Amazon's Prime aren't just offering content - they're creating it. Netflix has given us House of Cards - Amazon The Man in the High Castle. And dozens of other shows. Multiple additional companies offer us additional huge digital storehouses of stuff to watch. It's like trying to take a sip of water from a firehose. (And makes you wonder why we still have government media like PBS and NPR.)

Even the government (from all appearances begrudgingly) admits we are in an amazing era. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Democrat Chairman Tom Wheeler late last week **wrote**: "There's never been a better time to watch television in America. We have more options than ever, and, with so much competition for eyeballs, studios and artists keep raising the bar for quality content." But government can't help itself. The freer something is - the greater the government's desire to rein it in.

The Democrat FCC Chairman wants to end all that pesky free market content creation and explosive growth - and shrink it all back down to one government bureau. He is doing all of this - via a Pay TV set-top-box power grab. What non-problem is his grab alleged to be "solving?" "(W)hen it comes to the set-top-box that delivers our pay-TV subscriptions, we have essentially no options, creating headaches and costing us serious money in rental fees. That makes no sense, which is why I'm sharing a proposal with my fellow commissioners at the Federal Communications Commission to change the system."

Again, the system he wants to change (**fundamentally transform**?) - is the free market Xanadu we've been increasingly enjoying for decades. If it ain't broke - the government will surely insist they need to fix it.

And the Democrat Chairman's representation of the set-top-box - is wholly wrong. The box is not a separate, adjunct component - it's the very necessary last piece in the complex, encoded, proprietary cable line. That starts in creation capitols like Hollywood - and ends up in your living room.

Content creators want their content protected. Cable companies sign contracts promising to protect it. The box is the last step in that protection process. It's what translates the encoded scramble - into your favorite movies and shows. It's not just some random thing to which the government can blithely mandate third-party access. In part because it opens up an entire Pandora's Box of content protection problems. Which is why all sorts of content creators are all so vociferously opposed - joints like the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) and the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA).

And even though the Barack Obama Administration has by now rendered this notion remotely quaint - the FCC doesn't have even close to Congressional authority to do this. We'll quote Republican FCC Commissioner Michael O'Reilly: "(I)t appears to exist within a fantasy world of unlimited Commission authority. The Commission is and must remain in the business of licensing spectrum and infrastructure, not content." Wait - what? The government - licensing content?

FCC To Propose Itself As Sole TV Programmer In Latest Set-Top Box Twist: "Is TV's Second Golden Age coming to an unfortunate and unnecessary end? The answer could depend on just how far the FCC is willing to go to rescue its deeply-troubled proposal to 'unlock' Pay TV set-top boxes....FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler is now considering the creation of a copyright licensing office within the FCC, replacing complex separate arrangements with device manufacturers with a single contract overseen and possibly written by the Commission's staff."

Get that? Hundreds (thousands?) of privately negotiated contracts between willing private participants - will be shredded. And rewritten by government - in a one-size-fits-all manner. Great news. Behold the government Television Content Commission. How very Soviet of them.

Content creators the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) - are thrilled (sarcasm): "The broadcasters insisted that any new regulations aimed at encouraging more set-top box options make clear that the FCC would have no authority to 'establish, interpret or modify agreement terms in any way....' "Any action that could restrict [copyright owners'] ability to impose reasonable conditions on the use of [their] works through the private negotiations,' the NAB wrote, 'represents an existential threat to our vibrant video programming marketplace.'"

Behold yet another dose of Obama Administration fundamental transformation. Because these past eight years of fundamental transformations have been such a resounding success. - **townhall.com**

Twitter is coming to the TV screen.

The social media service said that starting Wednesday a new video-centric app will be available for Apple Inc.'s Apple TV box, as well as Amazon.com Inc's Fire TV and Microsoft Corp.'s Xbox One. The app—which will contain only video, photos and tweets curated by the company—arrives on time for Twitter Inc.'s **pivotal live-streaming debut of Thursday night football**.

By making live broadcasts available on a bigger screen, Twitter's TV apps could help address whether people would want to tune into hourslong games from the National Football League or Major League

Baseball on a five-inch smartphone screen. It can also encourage people who have yet to find a reason to use Twitter at a time when the company is trying to revive user growth. Among the oft-cited reasons why people say they don't use Twitter is because they find it confusing and difficult.

Twitter has made live-streaming the linchpin of a business strategy to turn itself into a prime place to watch video. It has signed a raft of deals to stream broadcasts from partners that include the NFL, MLB, the National Basketball Association, National Hockey League and Pac-12 Networks for sports, and Bloomberg News and Cheddar for financial news.

Its \$10 million deal with the NFL to broadcast 10 Thursday games is the highest-profile score of the bunch, with sponsorship packages commanding as much as \$8 million. The first game kicks off Thursday between the New York Jets and Buffalo Bills. Anyone with Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV or Xbox One will be able to watch these live broadcasts. A Twitter account or pay TV subscription won't be necessary.

The TV apps are different from Twitter's mobile and desktop services, which present a mostly unfiltered stream of tweets from people users follow. The apps look the same across users and are built around video, highlighting the latest professional live streams, Vine clips and Periscope live broadcasts. The streams will appear on one side of the screen with a curated feed of tweets next to them. Viewers will be able to hide the running Twitter feed by blowing up the broadcast to full-screen view, as is the case with the live-stream experience in Twitter's iOS app by turning the screen horizontally.

In the case of Apple TV, viewers will be able to watch two videos at the same time, side-by-side. For instance, if spectators at a baseball game tweet videos taken from their seats, viewers at home can pull up one of those videos from their Twitter feeds to watch at the same time as the official live broadcast.

The apps will also be available in some markets overseas. The Apple TV app will be available world-wide, while Twitter for Xbox One will be available in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Mexico and the U.K. Twitter for Amazon Fire TV and Fire TV Stick can be accessed in the U.K. Outside of these new TV apps, Twitter's NFL live streams can be found at tnf.twitter.com or in the Moments tab in Twitter's iOS and Android apps.

– *Wall Street Journal*



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