

Regulators Approve Tougher Rules For Internet Providers

BY ANNE FLAHERTY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Internet activists declared victory over the nation's big cable companies Thursday, after the Federal Communications Commission voted to impose the toughest rules yet on broadband providers like Comcast, Verizon and AT&T to prevent them from creating paid fast lanes and slowing or blocking web traffic.

The 3-2 vote ushered in a new era of government oversight for an industry that has seen relatively little. It represents the biggest regulatory shake-up to telecommunications providers in almost two decades.

The new rules require that any company providing a broadband connection to your home or phone must act in the "public interest" and refrain from using "unjust or unreasonable" business practices. The goal is to prevent providers from striking deals with content providers like Google, Netflix or Twitter to move their data faster.

"Today is a red-letter day for Internet freedom," said FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler, whose remarks at Thursday's meeting frequently prompted applause by Internet activists in the audience.

President Barack Obama, who had come out in favor of net neutrality in the fall, portrayed the decision as a victory for democracy in the digital age. In an online letter, he thanked the millions who wrote to the FCC and spoke out on social media in support of the change.

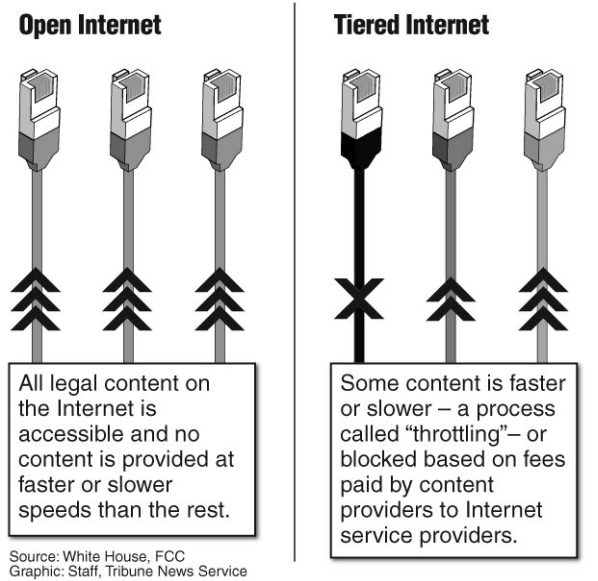
"Today's FCC decision will protect innovation and create a level playing field for the next generation of entrepreneurs — and it wouldn't have happened without Americans like you," he wrote.

Verizon saw it differently, using the Twitter hashtag (hash)ThrowbackThursday to draw attention to the FCC's reliance on 1934 legislation to regulate the Internet.

Net neutrality is the idea that websites or videos load at

Net neutrality

The FCC voted to adopt new rules declaring Internet providers as "common carriers," in an attempt to protect net neutrality or "open Internet."



about the same speed. That means you won't be more inclined to watch a particular show on Amazon Prime instead of on Netflix because Amazon has struck a deal with your service provider to load its data faster.

For years, providers mostly agreed not to pick winners and losers among Web traffic because they didn't want to encourage regulators to step in and because they said consumers demanded it. But that started to change around 2005, when YouTube came online and Netflix became increasingly popular. On-demand video began hogging bandwidth, and evidence surfaced that some providers were manipulating traffic without telling consumers.

By 2010, the FCC enacted open Internet rules, but the agency's legal approach was eventually struck down in the courts. The vote Thursday was intended by Wheeler to erase any legal ambiguity by no longer classifying the Internet as an "information service" but a "telecommunications service" subject to Title II of the 1934 Communications Act. That would dramatically

expand regulators' power over the industry and hold broadband providers to the higher standard of operating in the public interest.

"Despite the cable industry's best efforts to undermine our cause, we secured an open Internet, free from gatekeepers and corporate monopolies. We have an Internet for the people," said David Segal, executive director of Demand Progress, a progressive Internet activism group.

Industry officials and congressional Republicans fought bitterly to stave off the new regulations, which they said constitutes dangerous overreach and would eventually raise costs for consumers. The broadband industry was expected to sue.

"With years of uncertainty and unintended consequences ahead of us, it falls to Congress to step in," said Michael Powell, head of the National Cable and Telecommunications Association.

GOP lawmakers said they would push for legislation, although it was unlikely Obama would sign such a bill.

"Only action by Congress can fix the damage and uncertainty this FCC order has

inflicted on the Internet," Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, said in a statement.

Complicating the issue is that not every broadband provider agrees on what should be done. Sprint, for example, has said it doesn't think the new regulations would hurt investment. AT&T, however, supports the less stringent rules previously in place by the FCC but which were struck down in court. On Thursday, a senior company official said the FCC had gone too far and could cause irreversible harm.

"Does anyone really think Washington needs yet another partisan fight? Particularly a fight around the Internet, one of the greatest engines of economic growth, investment, and innovation in history?" said Jim Cicconi, AT&T's senior executive vice president for external and legislative affairs.

The FCC says it won't apply some sections of Title II, including price controls. That means rates charged to customers for Internet access won't be subject to preapproval. But the law allows the government to investigate if consumers complain that costs are unfair.

Also at stake Thursday was Obama's goal of helping local governments build their own fast, cheap broadband. Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Wilson, North Carolina, have filed petitions with the agency to help override state laws that restrict them from expanding their broadband service to neighboring towns.

The FCC was considered likely to approve these petitions, which could set a precedent for other communities that want to do the same.

Nineteen states place restrictions on municipal broadband networks, many with laws encouraged by cable and telephone companies. Advocates of those laws say they are designed to protect taxpayers from municipal projects that are expensive, can fail or may be unnecessary.

IS Militants Seize More Christians

BEIRUT (AP) — Islamic State militants seized more Christians from their homes in northeastern Syria in the past three days, bringing the total number abducted by the extremist group to over 220, activists said Thursday.

At the same time, the extremists also released a video showing the continued destruction of the heritage of the lands under their control. It depicted men using sledgehammers to smash ancient Mesopotamian statues and other artifacts in Iraq's northern city of Mosul.

The video, coinciding with mounting fears over the fate of the captive Christian Assyrians in Syria, sent a fresh wave of dread across the region, particularly among minorities who feel targeted by the group.

"Daesh is wiping Assyrian heritage in Mosul, and at the same time wiping them geographically from the face of the Earth," said Osama Edward, director of the Assyrian Network for Human Rights in Syria. He referred to the Islamic State by its Arabic acronym.

About 200 Assyrians and other Christians gathered in a church east of Beirut in solidarity with the victims in Syria and Iraq. Some cried openly.

Vandalism Cripples Internet In Arizona

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — Computers, cellphones and landlines in Arizona were knocked out of service for hours, ATMs stopped working, 911 systems were disrupted and businesses were unable to process credit card transactions — all because vandals sliced through a fiber-optic Internet cable buried in the rocky desert.

The Internet outage did more than underscore just how dependent modern society has become on high technology. It raised questions about the vulnerability of the nation's Internet infrastructure.

Alex Juarez, a spokesman for Internet service provider CenturyLink, said the problem was first reported around noon Wednesday, with customer complaints pouring in from an area extending from the northern edges of Phoenix to cities like Flagstaff, Prescott, Page and Sedona. Service began coming back within a few hours and was reported fully restored by about 3 a.m. Thursday.

CenturyLink blamed vandalism, and police are investigating.

The severed CenturyLink-owned cable — actually, a set of cables bundled together in a black conduit a few inches in diameter — was buried several feet under the rocky soil in a dry wash, about a quarter-mile from the nearest houses.

\$150K Custom Dress Reported Stolen

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A \$150,000 gown adorned with thousands of pearls and worn by Lupita Nyong'o at the Academy Awards has been reported stolen, sheriff's officials said Thursday.

Deputies responded to a West Hollywood hotel late Wednesday after the custom Calvin Klein Collection by Francisco Costa dress was reported missing from the hotel room of the actress, sheriff's Sgt. Richard Bowman said.

Bowman said Nyong'o was present when deputies took the report, but she wasn't in her room when the elaborate gown was taken.

Her publicists said they would not comment on the theft.

The custom ivory dress designed by Costa included 6,000 pearls of various sizes.

Wanted: The Perfect 2016 Candidate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Let's say, for a moment, that America has given you the job of picking the perfect candidate for president. Good luck, Mr. or Ms. Voter, deciding what they've got to have — and what they can do without.

There are all sorts of things to start the list: leadership, vision, charisma, communication skills and foreign policy cred. And more: fundraising prowess, authenticity, empathy, a keen understanding of the presidency and maybe a little familiarity with running for the office.

And even more: good looks are always a plus, even if people don't want to admit it. For many, being an "outsider" is a must at a time when "Washington" is on the outs with a lot of people.

Where do you even start? For Republicans, you can't do much better than this week's Conservative Political Action Conference. There are as many as two dozen GOP hopefuls eyeing the party's nomination in 2016, and many of them will be offering themselves at CPAC as the perfect promise for conservatives in search of a winning candidate.

Can anyone claim the total package? Matt Schlapp, chairman of the American Conservative Union, which runs CPAC, sees a strong lineup of potential candidates and says that now, "they're going to preen and strut and we're going to see a president emerge."

Remains Of Three Recovered From Fire

WINLOCK, Wash. (AP) — A police chief says investigators have recovered the remains of three people from the debris of an early morning fire that destroyed a home in the southwest Washington community of Winlock.

A woman and two girls are believed to have died early Thursday. Fire officials say a man and two boys got out safely.

According to Police Chief Terry Williams, the remains recovered Thursday afternoon have been turned over to the Lewis County coroner's office.

Williams says forensic work will be needed to positively identify them.

Stolen Picasso Smuggled Into U.S.

NEW YORK (AP) — Authorities say a Pablo Picasso painting worth millions of dollars was stolen in France and smuggled into the U.S. by someone who falsely labeled it as an "art craft" worth about \$37 when it was shipped.

U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York Loretta Lynch filed a civil forfeiture complaint Thursday over the 1911 cubist painting, called "The Hairdresser."

Authorities say the 1911 painting disappeared from a storeroom at the Pompidou Centre in Paris. It was reported stolen in November 2001.

The painting's location remained unknown until it arrived in the United States in December 2014. Lynch says the shipping label described the contents as an "art craft/toy."

There's no information on whether anyone has been arrested in connection to the shipment.

'Jihadi John' Identified As London College Grad

BY JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON — The world knows him as "Jihadi John," the masked, knife-wielding militant in videos showing Western hostages being beheaded by the Islamic State group. On Thursday he was identified as a London-raised university graduate known to British intelligence for more than five years.

The British-accented militant from the chilling videos is Mohammed Emwazi, a man in his mid-20s who was born in Kuwait and raised in a modest, mixed-income area of west London.

No one answered the door at the brick row house where Emwazi's family is said to have lived. Neighbors in the area of public housing projects either declined comment or said they didn't know the family.

British anti-terror officials wouldn't confirm the man's identity, citing a "live counterterrorism investigation." But a well-placed Western official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly, confirmed he is Emwazi.

One man who knew Emwazi portrayed him as compassionate, a description completely at odds with the cruelty attributed to him.

"The Mohammed that I knew was extremely kind, extremely gentle, extremely soft-spoken, was the most humble young person that I knew," said Asim Qureshi of CAGE, a London-based advocacy group that counsels Muslims in conflict with British intelligence services.

Qureshi noted strong similarities between the man in the beheading videos and Emwazi, who he first met in 2009. But, "I can't be 100 percent certain."

"The guy's got a hood on his head. It's very, very difficult," Qureshi said, adding that his last contact with Emwazi was in January 2012.

Asked whether it was helpful or



MOHAMMED EMWAZI, a Kuwaiti-born man from London, has reportedly been identified as the masked man behind videos of ISIS beheadings. He's shown in this still from an ISIS video from September.

hurtful to have the jihadi publicly identified, White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said that investigators over the last several months "have found it to their advantage to not talk publicly about the details or progress of that investigation." He didn't confirm the identity of the suspect.

The Center for the Study of Radicalization and Political Violence at King's College London, which closely tracks fighters in Syria, said it believed the identification was correct.

"Jihadi John" appeared in a video released in August showing the slaying of American journalist James Foley, denouncing the West before the killing. Former captives identified him as one of a group of British militants that prisoners had nicknamed "The Beatles."

A man with similar stature and voice was also featured in videos of the killings of American journalist Steven Sotloff, Britons David Haines and Alan Hemming, and U.S. aid worker Abdul-Rahman Kassig.

The *Washington Post* and the BBC,

which first identified the masked man in the video as Emwazi, said he was born in Kuwait, grew up in west London and studied computer programming at the University of Westminster. The university confirmed that a student of that name graduated in 2009.

"If these allegations are true, we are shocked and sickened by the news," the university said in a statement.

The news outlets said Emwazi was known to British authorities before he traveled to Syria in 2012, and Qureshi said Emwazi had accused British intelligence agents of harassing him.

Emwazi first contacted CAGE in 2009, Qureshi said. He had traveled to Tanzania with two other men after leaving university, but was deported and questioned in Amsterdam by British and Dutch intelligence services, who suspected him of attempting to join al-Shabaab militants in Somalia.

The following year, Emwazi accused the British intelligence services of preventing him from traveling to Kuwait, where he planned to work and marry.

CAGE quoted an email Emwazi had sent saying, "I had a job waiting for me and marriage to get started. But now I feel like a prisoner, only not in a cage, in London."

Qureshi accused British authorities of alienating and radicalizing young British Muslims with heavy-handed policies.

"When we treat people as if they are outsiders, they will inevitably feel like outsiders, and they will look for belonging elsewhere," he said.

Congregants leaving a mosque in the west London neighborhood where Emwazi is believed to have lived said they didn't know Emwazi and didn't believe he had worshipped there.

Shiraz Maher of the King's College radicalization center said he was investigating whether Emwazi was among a group of young west Londoners who traveled to Syria in about 2012.

Games

From Page 1A

Strong statements of resistance came from several House members.

"This is an industry that produces nothing, absolutely nothing," Rep. Steven Haugaard, R-Sioux Falls, said.

He spoke of bankruptcy, suicide and family devastation.

"This doesn't send a good message that we're endorsing this," Haugaard said.

Rep. Dennis Feickert, D-Aberdeen, said some people become addicted to gambling and they need to be treated. He said that described government, too.

"South Dakota is addicted to gambling to the tune of \$85

million to \$100 million-plus every year," Feickert said.

Rep. Lance Russell, R-Hot Springs, said he voted against the constitutional amendment in November but large majorities of voters in his legislative district supported it.

"To disregard the will of the people is not something we should take lightly here today," Russell said.

HOW THEY VOTED

Here's how the state House of Representatives voted Thursday to give final approval 46-22 authorizing keno, craps and roulette in Deadwood casinos.

Yes — David Anderson, R-Hudson; Julie Bartling, D-Gregory; Arch Beal, R-Sioux Falls; Jim Bolin, R-Canton; Shawn Bordeaux, D-Mission; Kristen Conzet, R-Rapid City; Justin Cronin, R-Gettysburg; Fred Deutsch, R-Florence; Lynne DiSanto, R-Rapid City; Dan Dryden, R-Rapid City; Mary Duvall, R-Pierre; Peggy Gibson, D-Huron.

Brian Gosch, R-Rapid City; Lana Greenfield, R-Doland; Michele Harrison, R-Mobridge; Spencer Hawley,

D-Brookings; Jean Hunhoff, R-Yankton; Alex Jensen, R-Sioux Falls; Timothy Johns, R-Lead; Dan Kaiser, R-Aberdeen; Kevin Killer, D-Pine Ridge; Patrick Kirschman, D-Sioux Falls; Kris Langer, R-Deer Rapids; Sam Marty, R-Prairie City.

Elizabeth May, R-Kyle; Steven McCleerey, D-Sisseton; Mark Mickelson, R-Sioux Falls; Herman Otten, R-Tea; Jeff Partridge, R-Rapid City; Kent Peterson, R-Salem; Ray Ring, D-Vermillion; Fred Romkema, R-Spearfish; Tim Rounds, R-Pierre; Tona Rozum, R-Mitchell; Lance Russell, R-Hot Springs; Kyle Schoenfeld, R-Scotland.

Karen Soli, D-Sioux Falls; Roger Solum, R-Watertown; Jim Stalzer, R-Sioux Falls; Dick Werner, R-Huron; Steve Westra, R-Sioux Falls; John Wiik, R-Big Stone City; Mark Willardson, R-Sioux Falls; Dean Wink, R-Howes; Mathew Wollmann, R-Madison; Larry Zikmund,

R-Sioux Falls.

No — Thomas Brunner, R-Nisland; Blaine Campbell, R-Rapid City; Scott Craig, R-Rapid City; Dennis Feickert, D-Aberdeen; Don Haggard, R-Sioux Falls; Steven Haugaard, R-Sioux Falls; Leslie Heinemann, R-Flandreau; Steve Hickey, R-Sioux Falls; Thomas Holmes, R-Sioux Falls; Roger Hull, R-Brandon; Joshua Klumb, R-Mount Vernon; Isaac Latreille, R-Tea.

Al Novstrup, R-Aberdeen; Lee Qualm, R-Platte; Nancy Rasmussen, R-Hurley; James Schaefer, R-Kennebec; Lee Schoenbeck, R-Watertown; Dean Schrempf, D-Lantry; Jacqueline Sly, R-Rapid City; Mike Stevens, R-Yankton; Burt Tulson, R-Lake Norden; Mike Verchio, R-Hill City.

Excused — Paula Hawks, D-Hartford; Scott Munsterman, R-Brookings.

Yankton Transmission Specialists
• Transmissions • Drive Lines
• Transfer Cases • Differentials
2 Year/24,000 Guarantee
2409 East Highway 50
(605) 665-1175

The family of **Virgil Schmidt** would like to express our sincere gratitude for all the food, flowers, memorials and prayers received during our great loss. We were truly touched by the overwhelming kindness and support from our family, friends and community. We extend a special thanks to Fr. David Roehrich and the altar servers of St. Patrick's Church of Wakonda for the beautiful mass. Special thanks to Madonna Keely for administering Holy Communion to Virgil weekly. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to Bill and Bob Hansen of Hansen Funeral Home for their special care, guidance and comfort. Thank you to the Wakonda and Vermillion Honor Guard for the military tribute on behalf of Virgil. Finally, we would like to thank the pall bearers, lecturers, musicians and the Legion Auxiliary for preparing and serving lunch and friends who served coffee and cookies after the evening service.

With eternal gratefulness,
~ Betty Schmidt and family