

NEWS/OBITUARIES

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FCC: Pick, pay cable TV could save you money

Decision reverses earlier stance

By HOPE YEN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

Most cable TV subscribers would save money if allowed to pay for only the channels they want, a Federal Communications Commission study said Thursday, switching the agency's earlier finding that consumers wouldn't benefit.

The analysis by FCC staff provides new support for consumer groups and conservatives pushing for a pick-and-choose pricing system to replace the bundled services offered by the cable industry. Cable companies fear that would diminish their wide distribution.

The study gives added ammunition to lawmakers and regulators who see "a la carte" as a way to clean up raunchy television by giving parents more control over the channels their children watch.

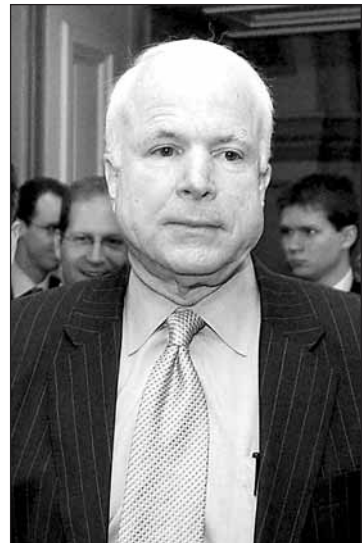
"I am pleased that the commission has concluded that 'a la carte' offering could reduce consumers' cable bills by as much as 13 percent," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who plans to introduce legislation next week to create and promote use of the a la carte system.

"The report confirms what I have believed for years: If consumers are allowed to choose the channels their families view then their monthly cable bill will be less," he said.

Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, said if a la carte won't cost consumers more, "I will support an effort to take such an approach, subject to discussions with providers on the downside of such a process."

The industry's main trade group, the National Cable & Telecommunications Association, was quick to point out the downside it sees.

Currently, Congress requires cable companies to offer a basic



AP PHOTO
Senator John McCain, R-Ariz., plans to introduce legislation to create and promote use of an a la carte system for cable TV.

service package that includes local broadcast stations. The companies also offer expanded basic packages that typically include bundles of cable networks such as ESPN and CNN. For HBO, Showtime and other premium services, consumer pay an additional fee.

In Thursday's report, FCC staff said its November 2004 report was wrong to conclude that the average cable household — which watches about 17 channels — would likely face a monthly rate increase of up to 30 percent under a la carte.

That 2004 report reasoned that a la carte would drive up cable companies' costs for equipment, customer service and marketing and that would almost certainly be passed on to subscribers.

In fact, consumers could receive as many as 20 channels without seeing an increase in bills, the FCC staff said Thursday, blaming its earlier finding on faulty data it obtained from the cable industry.

GREENWOOD

Ralph Emerson Alden

Ralph Emerson Alden, 80, died Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006, at Community Hospital South in Indianapolis. He was a resident of Greenwood.



ALDEN

He was born Aug. 19, 1925, in Oklahoma City, Okla. His parents were Virgil D. and Edna (Smith) Alden.

Survivors include a son, Ralph E. Alden II of Indianapolis; three daughters, Diana K. (Chad) Gatchell of Newalla, Okla., Stephanie Alden (T.J.) Smithey of Greenwood and Christina K. (Anthony) Hanley of Greenwood; three grandsons, Tyler N. Hanley, G. Ethan Hanley and William Alden Smithey, all of Greenwood; and four granddaughters, Ashley A. Alden of Indianapolis and Kara M. Hanley, Krystin S. Hanley and Ellen K. Smithey, all of Greenwood. He was preceded in death by a brother, Richard D. Alden; and twin brother, Raymond T. Alden.

He was in the U.S. Army Air Corps.

He was a graduate of Classen High School in Oklahoma City, Okla. He earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Oklahoma University.

He was employed as a bank examiner by Federal Home Loan Bank Board in Indianapolis, retiring in 1986. He previously taught junior high mathematics.

He loved every aspect of cars, from buying, selling and trading to working on them. He was also a direct descendant of John Alden, who came over on the Mayflower.

A private graveside service will be conducted Saturday at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens, 1977 S. State Road 135 in Greenwood. Friends may call from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Lung Association, 9445 Delgates Row, Indianapolis, IN 46240-3805.

INDIANAPOLIS

Walter Edward Beaver Sr.

Walter Edward Beaver Sr., 77, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2006.

He was born Feb. 24, 1928, in Indianapolis to the late Charles and Beulah Beaver.

He was a 1947 graduate of Morristown High School and went on to serve in the U.S. Army as a sergeant in the Korean War, during which he fought on the front lines and received the Bronze Star.

He retired from Prudential Insurance as an insurance agent in 1987 after 19 years of service.

Walter was a 32nd degree Mason and a member of the Scottish Rite and Murat Shrine Temple. He loved to bowl and was on many teams at Southern and Expo bowls throughout the years. Also, Walter loved to sing, especially country music, and play cards.

He is survived by his loving wife, Alberta Mae "Bert" (Poston) Beaver; children, LaVonna Lee and Bruce Jones, Walter Edward "Eddie" Beaver Jr. and Terri Lynn and Clark Mayfield; sisters, Ruth Goodwin, Mary Martin and Patty Pedigo; grandchildren, Geoffrey and Rachel Davis, Crystal, Steven and Tara Mayfield, Samantha and Nicholas Beaver and David and Daniel Jones; and trusty canine companion, Bucky.

He was preceded in death by brothers, Paul Jackson, Charles Beaver, Roy Beaver and James McGunegill.

Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. Sunday at Little and Sons Funeral Home, Stop 11 Road Chapel, 4901 E. Stop 11 Road in Indianapolis. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at the funeral home. Burial will follow in Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood.

Franklin

Mary Lorena Marlin, 93
Dorothy Sanders Peters, 71
James Melton Taylor, 55
Greenwood
Ralph Emerson Alden, 80
Jacqueline Watness, 78
Indianapolis
Walter E. Beaver Sr., 77
Alan F. Wilhelm, 54
Elsewhere
Patricia Ann Dewar, 67

NASHVILLE

Patricia Ann (Lewis) Dewar

Patricia Ann (Lewis) Dewar, 67, died Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2006, at Community Hospital South in Indianapolis. She was a resident of Nashville.

Survivors include her husband, Wesley Dewar of Nashville; son, Wesley D. Dewar II of Yokota, Japan; a brother, Herbert Lewis Jr. of Franklin; three sisters, Mary McClain of Franklin, Bernice Martin of Zephyrhills, Fla., and Norma Deckard of Greenwood; and six grandchildren.

A funeral service will be conducted at 2 p.m. Saturday at Jessen Funeral Home, Franklin Chapel, 197 E. Jefferson St. Friends may call from 1 p.m. until service time Saturday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Greenlawn Cemetery in Franklin.

Information: 346-6155

FRANKLIN

Mary Lorena Marlin

Mary Lorena Marlin, 93, entered heaven on Feb. 6, 2006. She was a resident at the Franklin United Methodist Community.



MARLIN

She was born Aug. 28, 1912, in Muncie. Her parents were Edwin H. and Mable C. (Bush) Justice. She married William Ross Marlin on Aug. 1, 1937, and he preceded her in death on Nov. 24, 2003.

Survivors include two sons, William Jay (Louise) Marlin of Phoenixville, Pa., and the Rev. Thomas Andrew (Julie) Marlin of Seven Hills, Ohio; a brother, Paul Justice of Zionsville; three grandchildren, Melissa Ann Marlin, Melanie Lee James and Mariah Kathleen Marlin; and two great-grandchildren, Samantha and Andrew James. She was preceded in death by a brother, Robert Justice.

Mrs. Marlin was a graduate of Ball State University and received a master's degree from New York State University and her principal certificate. She was an elementary teacher in New York and Indiana.

She was a member of Tabernacle Christian Church where she sang in the choir for many years. She was also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Business and Professional Women, and the Franklin United Methodist Community Choir.

She enjoyed traveling abroad to places such as Poland, Spain and Germany.

The Revs. John Eley and Bill Horner will conduct a funeral service at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Franklin United Methodist Community, Wright Chapel, 1070 W. Jefferson St. Friends may call from noon to 1 p.m. Saturday at the Wright Chapel. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 6030 W. 62nd St., Indianapolis, IN 46278.

Online condolences may be sent to the Marlin family at www.wilsonst pierre.com.

FRANKLIN

Dorothy 'Dottie' (Earlywine) Sanders Peters

Dorothy "Dottie" (Earlywine) Sanders Peters, 71, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006, at the Indiana Masonic Home in Franklin. She was a lifelong resident of Franklin.

She was born on June 25, 1934, in Franklin. Her parents were the late Don and Grace (Davis) Earlywine. She married Wayne Sanders on Feb. 1, 1954. He preceded her in passing in December 1980. She then married Donald L. Sanders Peters on Feb. 21, 1982. He preceded her in passing on Oct. 5, 2005.

Survivors include two sons, Greg (Debbie) Sanders of Merritt Island, Fla., and Kim Sanders of Atlanta; two stepsons, Mark (Debbie Jean) Peters of Bloomington and Erin (Terry) Peters of Abilene, Texas; a stepdaughter, Debra (Scott) Brosius of Danville; sister- and brother-in-law, Mary Jean and Bob Gee of Franklin; grandchildren, Lindsey, Whitney, Nathan, Kelli, April, Jonathan, Laura, Rachel, Crystal, Nathan, Sarah, Tiffany, Kristina, Andrew and Jill; and great-grandchildren, Hannah, Grace, Madison, Jordan, Jada and Jacob.

She was a 1952 graduate of Franklin High School.

Dottie was employed by Carlton Shuck Abstract Co. and Pioneer Title Comp. She later worked at Johnson County Insurance Comp. She was employed for 27 years by Chicago Title Insurance Comp. where she was a paralegal and manager and also worked in the escrow office.

She was a member of First Presbyterian Church. She was also a member of Hillview Country Club, Franklin Order of the Eastern Star No. 439 OES, Ladies Courtesy at the Murat Temple and Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite and a widow member of NMS Valley of Indianapolis. She was also a member and past president of Psi Iota Xi. Dottie was a past member on the board of directors for the Franklin Boys Club, a former Job's Daughter and a former member of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce.

The Rev. Cleon Wright will conduct a service at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Flinn and Maguire Funeral Home, 2898 N. Morton St. in Franklin. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home and from 1:30 p.m. until time of service on Saturday. Burial will be at Greenlawn Cemetery in Franklin.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.flinn maguire.com

FRANKLIN

James Melton Taylor

James Melton Taylor, 55, died Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2006. He was a resident of Franklin.

Survivors include three children, Jason Taylor of Franklin, Amber Taylor of Nicholasville, Ky., and Jeremiah Taylor of Indianapolis; a sister, Mary Klemaszewski of Terre Haute; and a grandchild. He was preceded in death by his parents, Floyd and Edith (Revis) Taylor.

Inurnment will be at Oddfellows Cemetery at a later date. Flinn and Maguire Funeral Home in Franklin is handling arrangements.

Online condolences to the family may be sent at www.flinn maguire.com

GREENWOOD

Jacqueline (McAvoy) Watness

Jacqueline (McAvoy) Watness, 78, of Greenwood, passed away Feb. 8, 2006.

She was born Jan. 7, 1928, to Frank J. and Margaret (Sweeney) McAvoy in Indianapolis.

Jacqueline was a member of St. Barnabas Catholic Church, the Red Hat Society and the Newcomers Club.

She married Robert S. Watness on Sept. 15, 1967, in Indianapolis. He survives. Other survivors include a son, Stephen (Jorie) A. Watness; a granddaughter, Lilly Watness; and a grandson, Luke Watness.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at St. Barnabas Church, 8300 Rahke Road in Indianapolis. Calling will be from 4 to 7 p.m. today at G.H. Herrmann Greenwood Funeral Home, 1605 S. State Road 135. She will be laid to rest in Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Indianapolis.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 6030 W. 62nd St., Indianapolis, IN 46278; or to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 332 N. Lauderdale St., Memphis, TN 38105.

INDIANAPOLIS

Alan F. Wilhelm

Alan F. Wilhelm, 54, died Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006. He was a resident of Indianapolis.

Survivors include his wife, Paula (Beck) Wilhelm; a daughter, Alana Wilhelm; a son, Mitchel Wilhelm; his mother, Joan B. (Rudolph) Higgenbotham; three brothers, Bruce (Kathy), Mark (Terrie), Sam (Mary) and Rex (Carole) Wilhelm; and five sisters, Roxann (Gene) Pendergraft, Maretta (Rick) Zerminski, Lanette (Jim) Rabb, Neva (Rex) Soladine and Janelle (Andy) Wilhelm.

A funeral service will be conducted at 1 p.m. Saturday at Little and Sons Funeral Home, Beech Grove Chapel, 1301 Main St. Friends may call from 11 a.m. until service time Saturday.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 6100 W. 96th St., Indianapolis, IN 46278.

Obituary policy

The Daily Journal will publish free death notices for Johnson County area residents, former residents and close relatives of area residents.

A free death notice contains basic information, including details about visitation and services, memorial contributions and some survivors.

Families who want to include more information or include a photograph can purchase a custom obituary. Additional information may include memberships, employment, education and additional survivors.

The Daily Journal takes obituary information from funeral homes. All obituaries must be verified with funeral homes before publication.

The deadline for submitting obituaries to the Daily Journal is 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. On Sundays, the deadline is 1 p.m.

Dieters find relief on frozen-food shelves

By CANDICE CHOI
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALBANY, N.Y.

Frozen dinners once offered little more than mushy Salisbury steak and shriveled green beans, but today's versions are so varied and well-labeled that some people use them to watch calories and carbs, fat and fiber.

A frozen meal's nutritional breakdown "lets you control what you're putting in your mouth. Otherwise it can get too time-consuming to figure out," said Erica Miller, a slim 24-year-old teacher in Albany, N.Y., who eats at least one frozen meal a day for weeks at a time.

The average American now eats a frozen meal about six times a month, and the number of those who eat them more frequently is growing, according to the American Frozen Foods Institute, an industry group.

While convenience and speed are the main drivers behind this market, also feeding consumption is growth in diet choices, said Chris Kresse, spokesman for AFFI.

The frozen dinner and entree market is now \$4.9 billion, up from \$3.4 billion in 1996.

From gluten-free to high-fiber, supermarkets are now stocked to suit nearly any type of diet.

Healthy Choice, endorsed by the American Heart Association, now has 70 entrees while Smart Ones are stamped with points for those following a Weight Watchers diet.

Lean Cuisine provides a calorie or carbohydrate count, and meals that are free of preservatives are marked, too. Amy's adds vegan, dairy-free, and even corn-free options.

Nutritionists warn that low calorie counts don't always translate to sensible eating. A microwave dinner may only have 300 calories, but too many might come from fat, said Netty Levine, a dietitian at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

The paltry sides of broccoli or peas in most dinners probably aren't adequate servings of vegetables, and meals that weigh in at fewer than 300 calories won't be enough food for most active people, either.

"You have to round out these meals with a salad, a glass of milk or some fruit," Levine said.

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