

UNCAPPED POTENTIAL CABLE ACADEMY 2017

April 19 & 20
Kalahari Resort in the Poconos

BCAP's 29th annual Cable Academy heads to the Poconos to highlight the direction our industry must embrace to prosper during the most competitive environment in its history. Cable Academy 2017 will showcase the "Uncapped Potential" that exists today, and how it can further expand in the near future.



"WHAT ARE WE IN 2017?"
STEVE EFFROS

President, Effros Communications
Cablefax Daily columnist
Former attorney/advisor, FCC

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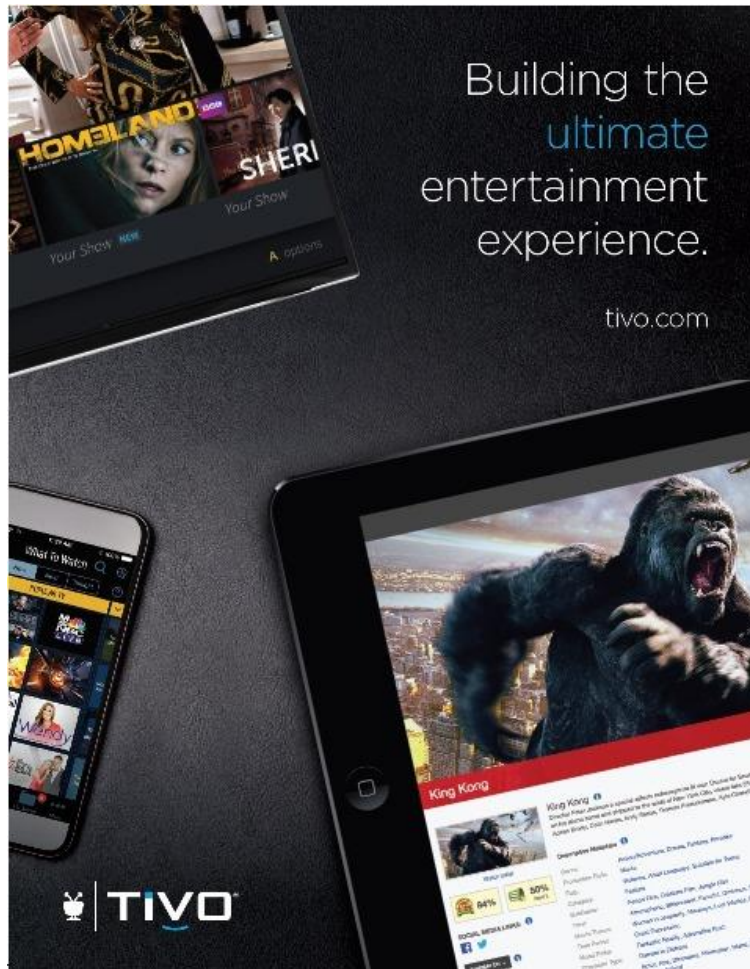
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News

Lancaster city's computer users may want to mark Feb. 27 on their calendars. That's when you can learn more about when you can sign up for LanCity Connect, the new fast, fiber-optic broadband network being deployed in the city.



Over the past two years, MAW Communications has laid more than 3,000 miles of fiber-optic strands along routes totaling about 30 miles, and set up 98 access points, as part of the municipal broadband project first announced in February 2015, company officials told City Council Tuesday. As promised, the network is blazingly fast, with top upload and download speeds of up to 1 gigabit per second. MAW's presentation was livestreamed; a video replay is available on [the city's Facebook page](#).

This spring, the company will begin connecting residential users. It plans to

divide the city into sections, then connect all the customers in one section before proceeding to the next. The whole process is expected to take roughly 18 months, with about three months per section.

It's important for everyone who's interested to sign up, said city Chief of Staff Pat Brogan and MAW's customer service director, Mindy Wiczowski, the daughter of company president Frank Wiczowski. MAW wants to prioritize areas where demand is strongest. The more customers there are in a given area, the more efficient the hookup process and the lower the cost.

The city and MAW are planning a publicity campaign, Brogan said. The administration is especially hoping for more interest in the south end of the city. Unlike the more affluent northwest, pre-registrations in the south were relatively sparse, despite an intensive outreach effort. Make sure you know when your neighborhood is being hooked up, Mindy Wiczowski emphasized. If you miss your phase, you'll have to wait till the rest of the city is completed before you have another chance to join. Interested city residents can find out more about the program and sign up on the [LanCity Connect website](#).

There are four pricing tiers. For low-income households — determined based on federal poverty guidelines — LanCity Connect plans to offer discounts on the lowest tier. The details are being finalized, Brogan and Wiczowski said: Interested parties can call (844)

AT&T to launch network for Internet of Things

526-2489 for more information. At the same time it hooks up users, MAW will be building out phase two of the network, MAW operations director Brian Kelly said.

That will add another 3,000-plus miles of fiber optic strands and more than 80 additional access points. Lancaster has entered into a public-private partnership with MAW for the broadband network. The city plans to use it for various services such as remote water meter reading, traffic signal control and data transmission for the Lancaster Safety Coalition's network of security cameras. The city will also share in revenues. Patrick Hopkins, the city's director of administrative services, will brief City Council on that aspect later this month. – *lancasteronline.com*

People in rural parts of Wisconsin can't wait any longer for faster internet access, more health care providers and better jobs, a group of Republican lawmakers said Tuesday. "It's high time that our rural areas and our small towns had our attention," said freshman Rep. Ron Tusler, of Harrison. Residents of these areas "are waiting without rioting, without yelling in somebody's ear. They're waiting patiently for us to focus on the issues that they have."

The group proposed a bill that would allocate \$15.5 million in broadband grants to underserved rural areas. Almost a quarter of Wisconsinites live in rural areas and around 40 percent don't have broadband, or high-speed internet access, at home. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Romaine Quinn and Sen. Howard Marklein, directs the Public Service Commission to prioritize areas not already benefiting from federal grants.

Democratic Senate Minority Leader Jennifer Shilling, of La Crosse, said the group is trying to make up for Gov. Scott Walker's rejection of \$23 million of federal stimulus money to expand broadband access in 2011. She said the group ignored the "meat and potato issues" of declining wages, growing child care costs, food insecurity and public school funding cuts that impact rural residents and city-dwellers alike.

Six years of Republican majorities in the state have "been very bruising for rural communities," she said. At the news conference, Quinn praised Walker for allocating \$200,000 in his proposed biennial budget to send medical students to residencies in rural parts of the state. A bill the group supported last session that would have given \$250,000 to the program failed to pass.

Quinn said bills addressing workforce shortages in rural areas are coming soon. One would allow high school students to earn credit for apprenticeships, which he believes will make jobs at manufacturers and other rural companies more attractive to young people. "Blue collar work is just as dignified as any other and we need to treat it that way," Quinn said.

The Rural Wisconsin Initiative is a year old and has 26 Assembly Republicans as members. It was created to address the "downward spiral" in rural areas when young people move away, causing the populations to drop, businesses to fail and job opportunities to decrease. The group believes investments in technology, health care and workforce development can reverse the trend. "I've heard too many stories about students that graduate from a university like UW-Stevens Point but think they have to move to places like Milwaukee, Chicago or Minneapolis to succeed," said freshman Sen. Patrick Testin, of Stevens Point.

Assembly Minority Leader Rep. Peter Barca, of Kenosha, said some of the group's proposals for helping rural areas could have bipartisan support. "We will offer additional creative ideas this session that hopefully Republicans — who control every element of government — will be open to teaming up with us on," he said. – *Associated Press*

CBS would "strategically want to buy some more stations" if the new FCC Chairman, Ajit Pai, raises the national ownership cap, CBS CEO Les Moonves told securities analysts

this afternoon following the release of the company's **fourth-quarter results**. Because of heavy biennial political advertising spending and retransmission consent revenue, Moonves said, the local TV business is "extremely good for us."

Moonves declined to predict whether Pai will raise the national cap, but seemed hopeful that he would. "We know Ajit Pai very well," Moonves said. "I think he will be very beneficial to our business. He's deregulation. We would be very interested in the cap moving up." The cap is now fixed at 39% of TV homes. With markets covering 37.7%, CBS has little headroom to acquire more stations, particularly in top 30 markets where CBS likes to concentrate.

Moonves also declined an invitation to say how high he thinks the cap should go. In note to investors following call, Wells Fargo's Marci Ryvicker said Moonves' "comments on station M&A were exactly as we had expected. "While CBS will look to expand its station group in a more favorable regulatory environment, it will be disciplined and smart, and likely focus on the top 25 markets" with American Football Conference teams, where CBS can capitalize fully on its local broadcast rights. – **TVNewsCheck**

Comcast Corp. promoted Daniel C. Murdock, a former official at the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, to the post of controller and top accounting officer, the company said Wednesday. Murdock is 43. He replaces Lawrence Salva, 60, who will remain as a senior adviser to the Comcast chief financial officer Michael Cavanagh through mid-2018. Salva, who had been at Comcast for 17 years, was an executive vice president in the cable division. Murdock had been a deputy chief accountant in the SEC's office in Washington. He joined Comcast in 2015. The SEC regulates publicly traded companies such as Comcast. – **Philadelphia Inquirer**



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