

F.C.C. CHIEF SEEKS
BROADBAND PLAN
TO AID THE POOR

BRIDGING DIGITAL DIVIDE

Subsidy Would Treat
Access as Essential to
Economic Health

By REBECCA R. RUIZ

For 30 years, the federal government has helped millions of low-income Americans pay their phone bills, saying that telephone service is critical to summoning medical help, seeking work and, ultimately, climbing out of poverty. Now, the nation’s top communications regulator will propose offering those same people subsidized access to broadband Internet.

On Thursday, that regulator, Tom Wheeler, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, will circulate a plan to his fellow commissioners suggesting sweeping changes to a \$1.7 billion subsidy program charged with ensuring that all Americans have affordable access to advanced telecommunications services, according to senior agency officials.

The effort is the F.C.C.’s strongest recognition yet that high-speed Internet access is as essential to economic well-being as good transportation and telephone service. Mr. Wheeler will propose potentially giving recipients a choice of phone service, Internet service or a mix of both, the officials said. He will also suggest new measures to curb fraud, a source of criticism in recent years.

While the plan is likely to secure the support of the F.C.C.’s Democratic majority in a vote next month, it is almost certain to also set off fierce debate in Washington. The subsidy program, Lifeline, has faced extensive scrutiny. And many of Mr. Wheeler’s previous actions, including his successful push to regulate broadband Internet as a public

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Scientists Urge
A Prompt Start
Of H.I.V. Drugs

By DONALD G. McNEIL Jr.

People with H.I.V. should be put on antiretroviral drugs as soon as they learn they are infected, federal health officials said Wednesday as they announced that they were halting the largest ever clinical trial of early treatment because its benefits were already so clear.

The study was stopped more than a year early because preliminary data already showed that those who got treatment immediately were 53 percent less likely to die during the trial or develop AIDS or a serious illness than those who waited.

The study is strong evidence that early treatment saves more lives, the officials said. Fewer than 14 million of the estimated 35 million people infected with H.I.V. around the world are on treatment now, according to U.N.AIDS, the United Nations AIDS-fighting agency. In the United States, only about 450,000 of the estimated 1.2 million with H.I.V. are on treatment, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“This is another incentive to seek out testing and start therapy early, because you will benefit,” said Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute

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Nebraska Bans
Death Penalty,
Defying a Veto

By JULIE BOSMAN

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska on Wednesday became the first conservative state in more than 40 years to abolish the death penalty, with lawmakers defying their Republican governor, Pete Ricketts, a staunch supporter of capital punishment who had lobbied vigorously against banning it.

After more than two hours of emotional speeches at the Capitol here, the Legislature, by a 30-to-19 vote that cut across party lines, overrode the governor’s veto of a bill repealing the state’s death penalty law. After the repeal measure passed, by just enough votes to overcome the veto, dozens of spectators in the balcony burst into celebration.

The vote capped a monthslong battle that pitted most lawmakers in the unicameral Legislature against the governor, many law enforcement officials and some family members of murder victims whose killers are on death row. The Legislature approved the repeal bill three times this year, each time by a veto-proof majority, before sending it to Mr. Ricketts’s desk. Adding to the drama, two senators who had previously voted for repeal switched to support the governor

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Hundreds of volunteers turned out to look for missing flood victims after torrential rains in Texas. PAGE A13

Rick Santorum Enters Race
The former Pennsylvania senator said he was running for president to represent middle-class voters. PAGE A17

NATIONAL

Immigration Plan Is in Limbo
President Obama’s plan to overhaul the immigration system may remain blocked for a year or more as courts consider a legal challenge. PAGE A13

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Tracking Moscow’s Troops
Videos and photographs, many gathered from social media, show Russian operations inside Ukraine. PAGE A6

Arrest in Diploma Inquiry
The head of a company accused of running a diploma mill has been arrested in Pakistan. PAGE A8



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Final Days for a Toy Emporium
News that the F. A. O. Schwarz store is closing disquieted adults who delighted in their childhood trips there. PAGE A19

Copper Theft Disrupts Subways
Service was suspended on two lines after at least 500 feet of cable was stolen from tracks in Queens. PAGE A22

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A Race in Mobile Payments
Google and Apple, latecomers to the fast-growing segment of mobile payments, are preparing to announce overhauls of their products. PAGE B1

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Warriors and Cavs in Finals
Stephen Curry led the Golden State Warriors over Houston, setting up an N.B.A. finals duel with LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers. PAGE B14

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TV Noir in ‘Aquarius’
David Duchovny (above right, with Gethin Anthony as Charles Manson) plays a detective in 1967 Los Angeles. Review by Alessandra Stanley. PAGE C1

AFTER INDICTING 14,
U.S. VOWS TO END
GRAFT IN SOCCER

Prosecutors Say Charges Against FIFA
Officials and Others Are Just the Start

By STEPHANIE CLIFFORD and MATT APUZZO

With billions of dollars at stake, Morocco, Egypt and South Africa jockeyed in 2004 for the privilege of hosting soccer’s most prestigious tournament, the World Cup. The outcome hinged on a decision by the executive committee of FIFA, soccer’s governing body, and a single vote could tip the decision.

And at least one vote, prosecutors said Wednesday, was for sale.

Jack Warner, a committee member from Trinidad and Tobago, shopped his ballot to the highest bidder, federal prosecutors said. In early 2004, he flew to Morocco, where a member of that country’s bid committee offered him \$1 million. But South Africa had a sweeter deal, offering \$10 million to a group that Mr. Warner controlled, prosecutors said. He voted for South Africa. South Africa got the 2010 World Cup. And Mr. Warner got his \$10 million payout, much of which prosecutors said he diverted for his personal use.

For decades, that was how business was done in international soccer, American officials said Wednesday as they announced a sweeping indictment against 14 soccer officials and marketing executives who they said had corrupted the sport through two decades of shadowy dealing and \$150 million in bribes. Authorities described international soccer in terms normally reserved for Mafia families or drug cartels, and brought charges under racketeering laws usually applied to such criminal organizations.

Hours after Swiss authorities arrived unannounced at a Zurich hotel and arrested top FIFA officials early Wednesday morning, the Justice Department and prosecutors for the Eastern District of New York forcefully declared that their investigation had only just begun and pledged to rid the

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In Charge, but Left Unscathed

By JONATHAN MAHLER

If Wednesday’s sweeping arrests of several FIFA officials at a five-star hotel in Zurich turn out to be the moment when everything finally started to unravel for Sepp Blatter, it would be hard to imagine a more appropriate setting. Mr. Blatter, the president of soccer’s governing body, has long been accused of running his organization like a Swiss bank, providing a minimum of transparency when it comes to the billions of dollars that flow into and out of its coffers every year.

Mr. Blatter has worked at FIFA since 1975, rising from technical director to general secretary to president. As FIFA’s leader, he has been praised for extending soccer’s reach to less developed nations, an effort that included bringing the World Cup to Africa for the first time.

But Mr. Blatter, who was not indicted, has also been widely criticized as tone-deaf and dictatorial, an unworthy steward of the global game. “He’s part James Bond baddie, part Mayor Daley-style machine politician writ large,” said Roger Bennett, co-host of “Men in Blazers,” a

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KARIM KADIM/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iraqis escaping the fighting in Ramadi crossed the Zbebiz Bridge, which offers passage into Baghdad from Anbar Province.

Sunnis Fleeing ISIS Find Few Doors Are Open Elsewhere in Iraq

By TIM ARANGO

AMIRIYAT FALLUJA, Iraq — On one side of a rickety bridge that spans a narrow stretch of the Euphrates River were panicked families on the run from Islamic State forces, hoping to escape Anbar Province and reach safety in Baghdad. On the other side

were Iraqi Army officers and Shiite militiamen, under orders to keep the bridge closed because of fears that militants could slip in among the displaced civilians.

“It’s like the other side is Europe and this is Asia,” said Ehab Talib, 27, who was waiting to meet relatives fleeing the fighting in Anbar, the Sunni-dominated region whose capital, Ramadi, recently fell to the Islamic State.

With new waves of civilians fleeing violence in Anbar there are now more internally displaced Iraqis, nearly three million, than there were at the height of the bloody sectarian fighting that followed the American invasion, when millions of Iraqis were able to flee to Syria. That door is closed because of that country’s

own civil war. And now doors in Iraq are closing, too, worsening sectarian tensions as the Shiite authorities restrict where fleeing Sunnis can seek safety.

“We are all Iraqis,” said Marwan Abdul, a doctor’s assistant, standing outside his mobile clinic here. “This wouldn’t happen in

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