

Frontier announces CEO switch

Frontier Communications Corp., a Stamford-based telecommunications company, has announced Maggie Wilderotter will step down as CEO on April 3.

Wilderotter will transition to a role as executive chairwoman of Frontier's board of directors and will be replaced by Daniel J. McCarthy, Frontier's president and chief operating officer. McCarthy will serve as president and CEO following the transition.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to lead Frontier at this exciting moment in our history, and thank Maggie for her guidance and mentorship," McCarthy said in a press release announcing the leadership change.

McCarthy has served as Frontier's president and chief operating officer since April 2012 and has been with the company since 1990. Wilderotter was named chairwoman and CEO in 2006.

"The board and I are confident that now is the right time to transition leadership responsibilities and that Dan is the right leader to advance Frontier's record of success," Wilderotter said in the press release.

— Leif Skodnick

Telecom reacts to net neutrality rules

In the wake of the Federal Communications Commission's newly issued rules enforcing net neutrality, the response from the telecommunications industry has been anything but neutral.

The new FCC rules, announced on Feb. 25, are aimed at maintaining an "open Internet," meaning that all legal Web traffic and content must be treated equally by internet service providers.

Among the activities the new rules prohibit are the blocking of access to legal content, applications, services or nonharmful devices; "throttling," where providers impair or degrade lawful Internet traffic; and "paid prioritization," where providers favor some lawful Internet traffic over other lawful traffic in exchange for payment. The rules also ban ISPs from prioritizing content and services of their affiliates.

Kathleen Quinn Abernathy, Frontier Communications executive vice president of external affairs, told the Business Journal in an email, "We have not yet reviewed the full text of the FCC decision, however we do not believe the FCC adopted the correct regulatory policy approach by reclassifying broadband internet access service as a Title II service."

Frontier Communications, headquar-

tered in Stamford, provides broadband service to more than 2.3 million customers in the U.S., according to the company's most recent earnings filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"We do not believe the FCC adopted the correct regulatory policy approach by reclassifying broadband Internet access service as a Title II service."

— Kathleen Quinn Abernathy

Passed by a 3-to-2 vote of the FCC's commissioners, the new rules reclassify broadband internet service to fall under Title II of the Federal Communications Act, which enables the FCC to regulate the industry similarly to the way it regulates other common carriers.

"Today, the commission – once and for all – enacts strong, sustainable rules, grounded in multiple sources of legal authority, to

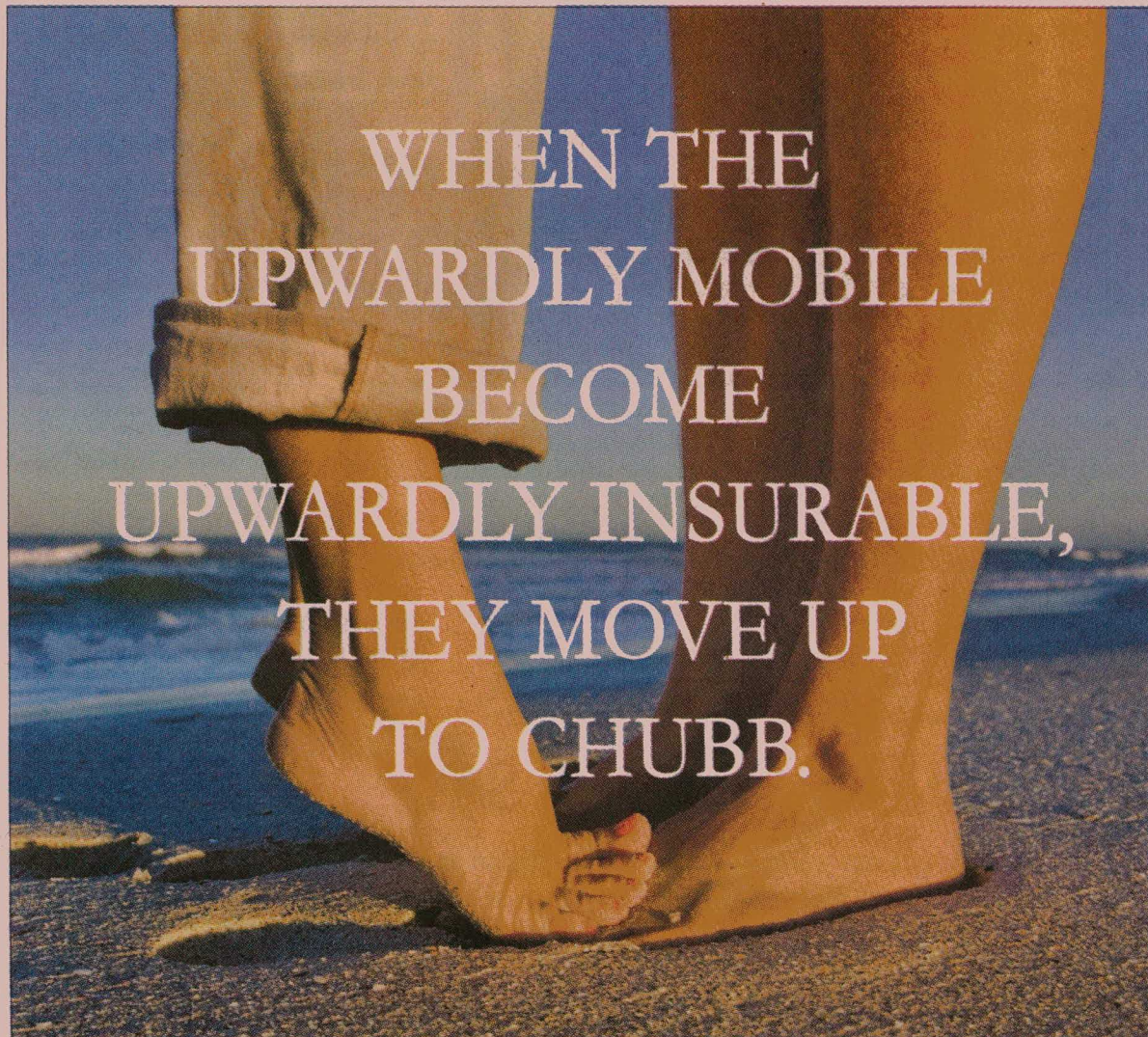
ensure that Americans reap the economic, social and civic benefits of an Open Internet today and into the future," the FCC said in a press release announcing the rules. "These new rules are guided by three principles: America's broadband networks must be fast, fair and open – principles shared by the overwhelming majority of the nearly 4 million commenters who participated in the FCC's Open Internet proceeding."

Frontier Communications, however, sees the new rules as the revival of an antiquated regulatory regime that does not belong in the modern marketplace.

"We have consistently stated the FCC should not overlay on the Internet a regulatory framework developed for a monopoly telephone world from the 1930s," Abernathy said. "This is particularly true when all of the ISPs, such as Frontier, already embrace the core issues of concern to the FCC, such as transparency, full disclosure, no fast lanes, non-discrimination obligations and non-blocking of lawful content."

The regulatory framework Abernathy referred was put forth after the passage of the Communications Act of 1934 was used to regulate AT&T's near-total monopoly on the telephone industry.

— Leif Skodnick



Now that you've stepped things up in life, it's time to get insurance that values your lifestyle as much as you do. Chubb insurance professionals work on your behalf to help protect and maintain your standard of living in the event of a covered loss. You don't have time for the runaround that standard insurance companies can put you through. You can do better. Move up to Chubb.

Go to MoveUpToChubb.com



Insure wisely. Live confidently.®

© 2014 Chubb & Son, a division of Federal Insurance Company. "Chubb" is the marketing name used to refer to the insurance subsidiaries of The Chubb Corporation. For a list of those subsidiaries, visit our website at www.chubb.com. Actual coverage is subject to the language of the policies as issued. Chubb, Box 1615, Warren, NJ 07061-1615.

Copyright of Fairfield County Business Journal is the property of Westfair Communications, Inc. and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.