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### NewsClips

October 1, 2015

[Fierce Cable Amazon, Netflix land more exclusive streaming deals](#)

[Los Angeles Times At MLB Advanced Media there is a push to stay ahead in the streaming arena](#)

[TV NewsCheck Sinclair Brings Local TV Newscasts To Congress](#)

[TV By The Numbers Cable Top 25 for Week Ending September 27](#)

[Associated Press Wolf launches budget appeal to rank-and-file GOP](#)

The Pennsylvania Senate unanimously confirmed a former EQT Corp. executive today as the state's newest public utility commissioner.

[Andrew Place](#), formerly EQT's corporate director for energy and environmental policy, was nominated for the five-member Public Utility Commission by Gov. Tom Wolf in May to replace James Cawley, whose term expired at the end of March. He was confirmed by the Senate with a vote of 48-0.

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Mr. Place had worked at Pittsburgh-based EQT since 2011. For a time, he held a concurrent role as interim executive director at the Center for Sustainable Shale Development, a Pittsburgh-based partnership between oil and gas companies, foundations and environmental groups that sets performance standards for the industry that aim to surpass existing rules.

Before joining EQT, Mr. Place worked at the state Department of Environmental Protection and served as a research fellow at Carnegie Mellon University's Department of Engineering and Public Policy. He also owns and operates a 210-acre farm in Greene County, where he lives. Mr. Place was confirmed by the full Senate shortly after the chamber's consumer protection committee unanimously recommended his appointment this morning.

**[Pittsburgh Tribune-Review Republican leaders invite vote on Pennsylvania Gov. Wolf's tax plan](#)**

**[pennlive.com Pennsylvania's House Democrats are game for tax challenge](#)**

**[Pittsburgh Tribune-Review Editorial: The Pennsylvania budget – Wolf's costly ploy](#)**

During his confirmation hearing, Mr. Place identified some of the “many challenges and opportunities” that require the PUC’s attention, among them the development of diverse energy sources, rail safety, bolstering competitive markets, enhancing utility infrastructure and ensuring electric reliability and affordability as the state complies with federal carbon-cutting rules. He is scheduled to be sworn in tomorrow in Harrisburg following the PUC’s regular public meeting. – *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

Negotiations to avoid blackouts of more than 100 TV stations carried by DirecTV and U-verse extended well into the night on Wednesday as both companies faced midnight ET deadlines on contracts with two large station groups. DirecTV and Media General late Wednesday agreed to push the deadline by three hours to midnight PT after a marathon negotiating session for retransmission consent rights to 62 stations. U-verse’s talks with Tribune Media for a new retrans pact covering 24 stations stretched late into the night on Wednesday.

Earlier Wednesday, satcaster Dish Network set a 24-hour extension of its deal with Tegna (formerly Gannett Broadcasting) for 46 network affiliate stations. The new deadline is 7 p.m. ET Thursday. Sources on both sides of the contract disputes said there were hopeful signs that blackouts would be avoided.

The contract battles over the carriage fees paid for the right to retransmit local stations come at a time of disruption for the players on both sides of the negotiating table. MVPDs are worried about cord cutting and increased competition from subscription streaming services. Broadcasters are dealing with the impact of declining live ratings and heightened competition for local advertising dollars. “This is about the pressures on these businesses,” said David Bank, analyst with RBC Capital Markets. Station owners of network affiliates are also feeling the squeeze as networks are demanding higher payments in exchange for receiving network programming. – *Variety*

Most of Pennsylvania's Republican U.S. House delegation released a joint statement Wednesday morning backing Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy in his bid to become the next House speaker.

In a letter signed by 11 of the state's 13 GOP representatives, legislators said it is "vital" for the conference to "come together to make Washington work again." "We believe that Kevin McCarthy is the right person to lead our conference and the House, and we endorse his candidacy for Speaker of the House," they wrote.

Those signing the letter of endorsement were: Reps. Charlie Dent, 15th District; Mike Fitzpatrick, 8th; Lou Barletta, 11th; Ryan Costello, 6th; Joe Pitts, 16th; Bill Shuster, 9th; Tim Murphy, 18th; Glenn Thompson, 5th; Mike Kelly, 3rd; Tom Marino, 10th; and Pat Meehan, 7th. Not listed were Reps. Scott Perry, 4th District, and Keith Rothfus, 12th.

U.S. House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio announced Friday that he will resign on Oct. 30 from his post and his congressional seat. The decision comes after he has faced increasing pressure from a faction of conservatives who had been pressing for his removal as they sought tougher action on their policy goals, such as defunding Planned Parenthood. Dent has said that pressure is unlikely to dissipate when a new speaker is elected. In a statement, Rothfus said choosing the next House speaker "is a serious matter that requires more than forty-eight hours of consideration." "Leader McCarthy announced his candidacy Monday afternoon," Rothfus continued. "The entire GOP conference met just last night to review the state of the Conference and how we move forward. It was a productive evening, but it's just the beginning of the process. I will continue to evaluate candidates for speaker and make a decision based on whom I believe can restore regular order and put forth a legislative agenda that reflects the desires of the American people."

Perry's deputy chief of staff, Bob Reilly, responded in an email, saying Congressman Perry respects McCarthy but that he disagrees with the decision to hold leadership elections next week. The speaker vote is scheduled for Oct. 8. "He believes we should have a thorough and transparent process wherein candidates can make their case for a positive, conservative governing vision for America, and members of Congress have time to receive feedback from their constituents and make the most informed choice possible," Reilly said. – *Allentown Morning Call*



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