

MetroVision ask for rate increase

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firms have found they are unable to count on revenue from those sources. Many of the services are still in the experimental stages, Samouell said.

THE CABLE firms overestimated potential profits and underestimated costs.

While local communities are attempting to take changes of the telecommunications industry into account, they are also being faced with proposed legislation designed to regulate the cable industry.

"Rate regulation is causing the big-

gest quandary," Samouell said, referring to House Bill 4103.

The legislation's purpose is to replace piecemeal local regulations with a standard national framework for both communities and cable firms.

As debate continues, local communities are concerned that legislation may take away local control over cable television rates and interfere with current contracts with existing local franchises.

The cable industry opposes rate regulation by local governments, Samouell said.

But the Federal Communications

Commission stepped in and claimed it has jurisdiction over rate regulation, except for very basic Tier 1 services, Samouell said.

Recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions have added weight to the FCC's position, she added.

MetroVision's official request for an increase comes about seven months after a controversy over the wiring of less-populated neighborhoods throughout the tri-city franchise area.

SWOCC members ordered the cable firm to install an additional 60 miles of cable line in areas that MetroVision expected to charge a \$200-\$600 installa-

tion fee for each household.

SWOCC's consultant, Harold Horn, who completed a long-awaited compliance and density review in January, concluded MetroVision is justified in its request for a rate increase, said Samouell.

Now that MetroVision has completed wiring of areas included in the franchise agreement's "initial service area," plus the additional 60 miles, the SWOCC has to include the redesign of the system in the agreement, she said.

This proposed amendment to the franchise agreement as well as amendments concerning subscriber rates and services will be discussed at the public hearing.



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New school year begins

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Using cable TV creates a different way to communicate within the school district and the community, says Lewis.

"This program will help familiarize the community with the school district. The public schools will have greater exposure to the general public," Lewis adds.

Classes for the program will not be available for the fall school term so that the coordinator may set up a studio and organize a cable TV curriculum. Students will probably be able to begin classes the second semester, says Freedman.

As the program evolves, the district may get its own cable TV channel, but for now, it will broadcast on MetroVision's public education channel, channel 12.

New programs at the elementary level include a

Traveling Sea World program from Ohio which will hold performances at each elementary school during the early part of the school year.

All elementary schools will also participate in a

pilot writing program designed to stimulate students' writing desire and to improve grammar and technical skills.

Three elementary schools will also take part in computer pilot programs to develop language and writing skills through computers.

Programs in the middle schools this year will emphasize advanced levels of writing, says assistant superintendent in charge of secondary curriculum Lynn Nutter.

Each individual school also has structured courses for math science and English, he adds.

The ninth and 10th grades will also have "very structured" English programs to place emphasis on writing skills, says Nutter.

"He said we could start the school year without him for a few weeks." The school year begins on Tuesday with elementary students attending a morning session. On Wednesday elementary pupils will report for a full day of classes, while middle and high school students will report in the afternoon.

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