

Vermont Association of Broadcasters

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A WINDY CLOSE CALL IN BARRE



The fierce winds that ripped through Vermont this past Monday morning nearly caused major damage to Great Eastern Radio's studios in Barre.

The studios on Jacques Street house WRFK, WWFY, WJKS and WSNO. WRFK afternoon drive host TJ Michaels, who posted this photo, says two other large trees next to the building survived. "And I think they won't be there long," he said, adding, "I just don't think you get that lucky twice!"

NEAL GOSWAMI TO JOIN WCAX



Neal Goswami

Vermont Press Bureau Chief Neal Goswami has been hired by WCAX, filling an opening for a chief statehouse reporter. The job had been open since parent company Gray Television hired Kyle Midura for its Washington, D.C. Bureau.

Meanwhile, VPR reporter Taylor Dobbs is moving to *Seven Days*, replacing longtime reporter Terri Hallenbeck, who has been hired by Middlebury College. Good luck to all!

HALL OF FAME BANQUET REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS 11/22

The deadline to register for the December 2 VAB Hall of Fame Awards Banquet is Wednesday, Nov. 22.

2017 Hall of Fame inductees

The banquet will be held at the Hilton Burlington, with a happy "hour" starting at 5:30 and dinner served at 7 p.m. Tickets are only \$30 each and can be purchased by [clicking here](#).

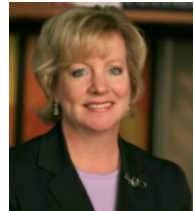
If you would like to stay overnight at the Hilton, your cost will only be \$50+tax (this rate includes parking) with the VAB subsidizing the rest of the \$89 rate. The Hilton is expected to sell out that night. This rate is only available until the group block is sold out or until November 30, whichever comes first, so please make your reservations as soon as possible either by phone or online:

By phone: Call 802-859-5055 between the hours of 8:30 am-5 pm Monday through Friday. You must mention the special rate code of "Vermont Association Of Broadcasters Holiday Block."

Or [click here](#) to book a room online. We look forward to seeing you at the Hilton on Saturday, December



Tom Beardsley



Judy Simpson



Brian Collamore

HELP THE VAB HELP OUR FRIENDS IN PUERTO RICO



This week the VAB received an urgent plea for help from our friend Jose Ribas, Executive Director of the Puerto Rico Broadcasting Association. "In Puerto Rico alone, 60% of our Radio Stations are down, no power, no water, no business. The other 40% are running the stations on gas or diesel for over a month, this is hell my friends."

The VAB is joining with other state broadcasting associations to try to do what we can to help our fellow broadcasters in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The VAB is pledging \$1000, and we're asking broadcasters in Vermont to join the effort by [donating online here](#). Or, send a check to VAB Puerto Rico Fund, 500A Dalton Drive, Colchester, VT 05446. Any amount will help.

Also, we'd like to give a tip of the hat to former VPR Chief Engineer Rich Parker. Now with CoastAlaska Public Broadcasting, Parker prepared an emergency "RadioToGo" kit with an FM transmitter, studio gear and antenna to help public broadcaster WIPB in Puerto Rico get back on the air. Good job, Rich! Now it's time to help Puerto Rico's commercial broadcasters get back on the air. - Jim Condon

# FCC CHANGES MAIN STUDIO RULES; WILL LOOK AT OWNERSHIP RULES



By [David Oxenford](#), Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP

At the October 24 FCC meeting, the FCC repealed, on a 3 to 2 vote, the main studio and studio staffing requirements for TV and radio broadcasters. The final order, [here](#), was substantially unchanged from the draft we described when it was released last month.

Broadcasters need no longer have a main studio or even locate employees in their service areas, but must continue to serve the needs of their community, reflect that service in quarterly issues programs lists, and maintain a toll-free number that will allow local residents to contact the station. Stations that have not completely converted to the online public file must also maintain a local paper file until the online conversion is complete. The changes for the most part become effective 30 days after they are published in the Federal Register.

The FCC, as part of its Media Modernization Initiative, also started a proceeding to abolish the requirement that TV stations with no ancillary and supplementary revenue (revenue from the digital transmission of non-broadcast services) file an FCC report on that revenue. As only about 15 stations had such revenue, to make the thousands of other TV stations file reports to simply say that they have no such revenue made little sense.

Recently, we previewed the FCC's likely decision to significantly change its ownership rules for television owners - proposing to take actions including allowing TV duopolies in markets with fewer than 8 independent TV voices after the combination, allowing some combination of the Top 4 TV stations in certain markets, repealing the radio-TV cross-ownership rules, and repealing the newspaper-broadcast cross-ownership prohibitions. The FCC has now released the draft of the order to be considered at its meeting this month. [It is available here.](#)

Also on the tentative agenda ([here](#)) for the November meeting is the approval of the new standard for broadcast television - ATSC 3.0. The draft order would allow a voluntary transition to the new standard, with those TV stations that decide to convert being required to find a partner station in most cases so that viewers will be able to see the 3.0 station's primary programming in the current ATSC 1.0 standard for at least 5 years. LPTV and TV translators would be exempt from this partnering obligation. [The draft order is available here.](#) We will provide more details on that draft order in the near future.

## Trick or Treat at the Berlin Mall



An estimated 2000 trick or treaters packed the Berlin Mall Oct. 29 for the "Malloween" event promoted by Central Vermont radio stations WRFK, WWFY and WSNO. That's a lot of candy!

Have photos from a promotional or fundraising event? Send them to Jim Condon at [vab@vab.org](mailto:vab@vab.org).

## Welcome Back, Vermont Army Guard!

Today, November 1, marks the return of the Vermont Army National Guard to our state's airwaves. They join the Vermont Department for Children and Families as participants in the VAB's NCSA program.



NCSA stands for "Non-Commercial Sustaining Announcements," a federally-sanctioned program to help promote government and other qualifying non-profit organizations. Thank you to all of our participating radio and television stations!

To download the Vermont Army Guard radio or television spots please [click this link](#).