Volume 23 / No. 103



Wednesday — May 30, 2012

What the Industry Reads First

#### Gatekeeper Shuffle: AT&T's York Replacing Chang at DirecTV

On Fri, CableFAX broke the news that content chief Dan York was leaving AT&T, with Jeff Weber replacing him. On Tues, the other shoe fell, with **DirecTV** announcing that York will join the company in July as evp, programming and chief content officer. He is replacing *Derek Chang*, who will leave his position as evp, content strategy and dev at the end of the year. Chang, who joined DirecTV from Charter in '06, is interested in moving into the intl business sector, though he has nothing lined up yet. "My interest has always been there... now is a good time to execute." Chang told CableFAX Tues, pointing in part to the ages of his children (5 and 8). He said his departure is completely amicable, with him approaching DTV pres/CEO Mike White earlier this year. He had actually mentioned years ago when Chase Carey was at the helm that this was ultimately something he'd want to do. "My time at DirecTV has been a tremendous experience," he said. Chang's accomplishments at DirecTV include the "100 channels of HD initiative" that launched at CES in '07 and served as a catalyst for other MVPDs to up their HD game. He also renegotiated NFL Sun Ticket in '09 for a deal that runs through the '14 season. Before Charter, Chang was a member of **YES**' original sr mgmt team and served as CFO and Co-COO at **GlobalCenter** (a subsidiary of **Global Crossing**). "I want to thank Derek for his tremendous leadership over the years in establishing DirecTV as the very best in content highlighted by DirecTV's preeminent position in HD and its continued superiority in sports programming," White said in a statement. "We understand Derek's desire to take his career in a different direction but I personally appreciate his advice and guidance during my own entry into the industry and his willingness to work with me on a thoughtful transition over the course of this year." Chang said he is proud to have been part of such a "tremendous team," and is confident in the company's future. York will report to White, and will lead DirecTV's efforts in programming and content rights initially. He'll then oversee the content and Root Sports teams as Chang transitions out of his role at year-end. At AT&T, Weber, most recently vp, U-verse and video products, has the new title of pres, content and ad sales (Cfax, 5/29). Weber joined SBC (now AT&T) in '86 and has held a number of posts, including roles in IT, sales, strategy, network ops and marketing.

At the Portals: The FCC is seeking comments on ACA's petition for reconsideration of part of the agency's Emergency Alert System order. Specifically, the group wants to do away with the requirement that systems with fewer than 501 subs and lack of physical access to a wireline broadband connection at the headend have to file waivers to be exempted from the FCC's requirement that EAS messages be formatted in Common Alert Protocol. Instead, ACA wants a streamlined waiver process to shift the burden off these systems, subject to operator compliance. The FCC is seeking comments on the petition, asking several questions, including whether a system's access to wireless or a satellite broadband connection provide sufficient bandwidth for complying with the order. -- Meanwhile, SCTE has published a new doc to provide guidance to operators on adoption of the CAP for EAS



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# **CableFAX** Awards and Nominations!



#### Entry Deadline: Friday, June 1, 2012

Enter the Annual CableFAX Program Awards honoring the best in cable content and people. This unique awards program raises the bar for outstanding cable programming and honors cable's contribution to this new Golden Age of Television. www.CableFAXProgramAwards.com



#### Nomination Deadline: Friday, June 1, 2012

Let us know the executives that you think should be included in our annual list of Most Influential Minorities in Cable. CableFAX is also partnering with NAMIC to honor the Most Influential Minorities in Cable at an awards breakfast during the Annual NAMIC Conference, as part of Diversity Week. www.cablefax.com/diversity



#### Nomination Deadline: Friday, June 8, 2012

If you think that you work at a great place - nominate it! Give your company a chance to be seen in our annual list of the Top 10 Places to Work in Cable, which will appear in the September 2012 issue of *CableFAX: The Magazine*. www.cablefax.com/work



#### Nomination Deadline: Friday, June 15, 2012

Who are cable's most powerful women executives? Help us decide by nominating the executives you think should be included in our annual list of the Most Powerful Women in Cable. We will rank the most powerful women in the November 2012 issue of *CableFAX: The Magazine*. Nominations are open to all cable operators, programmers, vendors and trade associations.



#### Nomination Deadline: Friday, June 22, 2012

Submit your colleagues, your boss or even yourself for consideration for the CableFAX 100! This annual cable industry power list will appear in the December edition of *CableFAX: The Magazine.* www.cablefax.com/cablefax100

Please Contact Shannon Nelligan, Senior Marketing Manager, SNelligan@accessintel.com with any questions.

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warnings. It's available for free at www.scte.org.

<u>**Ratings:**</u> No feuding over this. **History's** "Hafields & McCoys" was the #1 non-sports telecast in ad-supported cable history, with Mon's debut delivering more than 13.9mln total viewers (according to **Nielsen's** fast cable ratings). Part 1 scored 5.8mln 25-54s and 4.8mln 18-49s, with the miniseries (starring *Kevin Costner* and *Bill Paxton*) continuing Tues and Wed night.

<u>Retrans</u>: Time Warner Cable subs in Corpus Christi have access to NBC again through the provider. The MSO and Cordillera settled their 5-month-old retrans spat Fri. NBC station KRIS, as well as Telemundo affil KAJA and CW affil KDF, have been dark on TWC since Dec 13. No word on why the stalemate finally ended. -- Mean-while, Cox is still facing a deadline of midnight June 1 for its deal with Media General. If a renewal isn't reached, it could lose NBC affils in Roanoke, VA and Providence, RI, as well as Pensacola CBS affil WKRG. "At stake is what we feel is reasonable compensation for programming that is otherwise available for free, over-the-air, and are focused on securing an agreement that is fair to our customers," said a Cox spokesperson, adding that the MSO is hopeful a deal will be reached.

<u>Sports Bill</u>: Time Warner Cable has proposed a tiered system for its upcoming L.A. RSNs, where cable systems within the L.A. DMA will pay \$3.95/sub per month, *Sports Business Journal* reports, citing an unnamed source. Systems in outlying areas (north to Fresno, south to San Diego and east to the AZ border) would pay \$1.25.

**Programming:** Travel personality and world-renowned chef Anthony Bourdain is joining CNN. He'll host of a new weekend program to launch early next year and also provide commentary across CNN programs. The show will be produced by **Zero Point Zero**, which also produces Travel's "No Reservations." Travel said it has been aggressively developing new talent, voices and shows, as announced last year, as it repositions its brand. "Anthony Bourdain has been an iconic figure at Travel Channel for 8 groundbreaking seasons of the Emmy award-winning 'No Reservations' and he just finished shooting the latest season of 'No Reservations.' Additionally, we just began filming with Tony for Season 2 of 'The Layover,'' said a Travel spokesperson. "Original episodes of both series will run through 2013 and Bourdain programs will always have a home on Travel Channel. We are proud of the great storytelling Tony has brought to the network. We congratulate him on his new venture and look forward to working with him on new projects in the future." Travel said it will continue to discuss future projects with Bourdain. -- Ovation debuts original 3-part series "Motor City Rising," Fri at 10pm ET. The docuseries explores the lives of a new breed of artists and creative entrepreneurs in Detroit.

**<u>People</u>:** Comedy Central hired MTV's Brooke Posch as vp, original programming and dev, East Coast. -- Jennifer DeGuzman joins National Geographic Channels as vp, comm. Most recently AOL sr dir, DeGuzman is based in NY.

*Honors:* CTHRA named Scripps Nets Interactive HR evp *Chris Powell* as its '12 Leadership Excellence Award recipient. **Comcast** exec dir of HR ops *Yvette Smetana* was named as the 1st recipient of the Aspiring Leader Award, and **Time Warner Cable**'s Human Capital Analysis and Planning team was named Team Innovator of the Year. The recipients will be honored during CTHRA's Symposium, June 15 in Atlanta.

Cable Cares: During the Cable Show last week, Discovery and industry friends gathered for a standing-room-



## **BUSINESS & FINANCE**

only celebration of the life of Chris Lonergan, who passed away Apr 13 following multiple battles with cancer. During the event, guests had an opportunity to write notes and memories about the cable vet. which will be compiled to create a tribute book for Lonergan's sons, Christopher and Grant. If you were unable to attend the event in Boston and would like to include a personal message in the book, please contact Chrysti Hill at chrysti\_hill@discovery.com. In addition, an education trust has also been established for his children: checks payable to "Lonergan Children Education Trust," Bank of America Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, 6000 Fairview Road, Suite 700, Charlotte, NC 28210. Attn: Neil Stikeleather. Or to arrange other methods of contribution, email neil.stikeleather@ ml.com

<u>On the Circuit</u>: NAMIC announced 2 full scholarships, underwritten by the Walter Kaitz Foundation, for its NAMIC Leadership Seminar Aug 1-3 in San Fran. The deadline for submitting nominations is June 22 (www.namic.com).

**Business/Finance:** Verizon announced a voluntary, odd-lot program for small shareholders to either round their Verizon holdings up to 100 shares or to sell all their shares. Verizon will not buy or sell any of the shares or otherwise participate in the program.

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### CALL FOR ENTRIES! Entry Deadline: June 15, 2012

The Second Annual Communications Technology Platinum Awards honor the best of the best in technology innovation, implementation and PR/marketing. Prove your weight, and enter the 2012 Communications Technology Platinum Awards today!

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