

# CableFAX Daily™

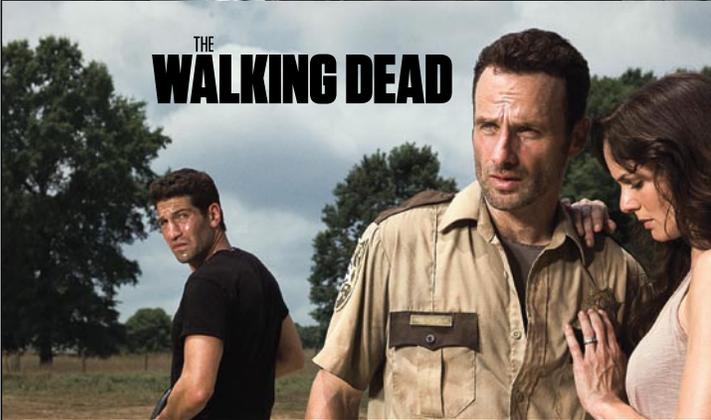
Tuesday — July 24, 2012

What the Industry Reads First

Volume 23 / No. 141

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## MORE NOMINATIONS THAN ANY BASIC CABLE NETWORK FIVE YEARS IN A ROW



### 34 EMMY® NOMINATIONS



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## Indy Show: Content Still King... of Many Kingdoms

The linear video business remains vital to independent cable ops, but panelists at the Indy Show advised them to keep pushing forward with authentication as consumer behavior evolves. "You've just got to be stronger, quicker and embrace TV Everywhere," said *Larry Levinson*, pres of **Levinson Productions** and founder of family-friendly movie service **PixL. WOW!** pres/CFO *Steven Cochran* said the company will keep "putting ourselves out there" on authentication but cautioned that content owners hold a lot of power in that arena. "It's something that we're focused on and making sure we're in the middle of, but not something we're necessarily going to control," he said. **Arris** pres *Bruce McClelland* said OTT won't kill the set top any time soon. "We're years and years away from the reality of that," he said. But he added that cable ops must make sure they're ready for any business shift. "So I encourage people to stay on top of this and innovate quickly because it's really going to happen," he said. -- The slew of private-equity deals involving small ops in recent weeks was all the buzz, with **NCTC** pres/CEO *Rich Fickle* calling the high valuations "a great endorsement for what these companies have been able to do." Cochran, whose **WOW!** just completed the purchase of **Knology**, said some have wondered whether the gap between private and public valuations in cable is still there. "The last couple of weeks have been a nice indication that it is," he said, noting that the private equity community "sees nice upside in our industry." -- Speaking of deals, *Tom Cohen* of **Kelly, Drye & Warren** told attendees that a positive ruling may come in 3Q to end the prohibition of cable companies and CLECs in the same market merging. **ACA** has been lobbying for the change. Less promising is retrans, with **Cinnamon Mueller's** *Barbara Esbin* noting that **FCC** chmn *Julius Genachowski* appears to prefer watching the market and letting Congress act. She sees hope in the media ownership proceeding in which ACA has raised concerns about the pooling of retrans consent rights by local TV stations in a single market. "We've been getting great receptivity at the Commission staff level with our analysis and arguments..." she said, adding that action is expected before the end of the year.

**At the Portals:** House Commerce chmn *Fred Upton* (R-MI), House Telecom subcmte chmn *Greg Walden* (R-OR) and other Republican lawmakers are asking the **FCC** to avoid expansive interpretation of the program carriage rules. "The FCC's recent interpretation of the program carriage rules, however, could be read to enable programmers effectively to



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\*2011 Beta Research Cable Operator Carriage Study, Percent of total cable operators with 100k+ subs very/fairly interested in carrying channel by the end of 2012. Tied for 1st.

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force their way on to a cable operator's system by merely alleging that their programming is similar enough to the operator's affiliated programming, rather than showing that there has been anticompetitive discrimination," the lawmakers complained. The letter to FCC chmn *Julius Genachowski* seems to be in anticipation of an FCC decision soon on **Tennis Channel's** carriage complaint against **Comcast**. The Republicans said cable ops need flexibility and that they shouldn't be forced to spend millions defending themselves against groundless allegations. **NCTA** and **Time Warner Cable** have challenged the FCC's program carriage order released last Aug. Under it, a programmer filing a carriage complaint may also file a petition requesting a temporary standstill of price, terms and other conditions of the existing contract. Less controversial are the requirements set forth in the order to establish timelines for filings and decisions on carriage complaints.

**News Restructuring:** **News Corp** promoted *Peter Rice*, chmn of entertainment for **Fox Networks Group**, to chmn/CEO of the group. He will oversee all programming and operations for the group, which includes **Fox Broadcasting**, **Fox Sports Media Group**, **FX**, **Fox International Channels** and the **National Geographic Channels**. Fox Sports chmn/CEO *David Hill* also was upped to sr evp, News Corp, where he'll focus on programming, digital initiatives and other opportunities spanning the breadth of the Company's operating units across Latin America, Asia, Australia, Europe and the US. Hill will be based in L.A. The changes mean that Fox Networks Group pres/COO *David Haslingden* and Fox Networks Group pres, distribution *Mike Hopkins*, who both previously reported to *Chase Carey*, will report to Rice. *Randy Freer* and *Eric Shanks*, co-presidents of Fox Sports Media Group, who previously reported to Hill, will also report to Rice.

**Indy Show Notebook:** **NCTC** members elected 5 directors at their annual meeting. New to the board is *Brad Mef-ferd* of **Buckeye**. Re-elected for 3-year terms were **USA Companies'** *Chris Hilliard*, **Cable One's** *Jerry McKenna*, **GCI's** *Bob Ormberg* and **Wave Division's** *Wayne Schattenkerk*. -- **ACA** also held its board elections, with **WOW!** CEO *Colleen Abdoulah* elected chairwoman (she'll be testifying during Tues' Sen Commerce hearing on the '92 Cable Act) and **Massillon Cable** pres *Rob Gessner* named ACA vice chmn. Elected to 3-year terms: **Bevcomm's** *Jim Beattie*, **Buckeye's** *Allan Block*, **NewWave's** *Jim Gleason*, **Patriot's** *John Gdovin* and **GCI's** *Terry Nidiffer*. -- **NCTC** named **OpenVault** as an approved vendor for high-speed usage data analytics and policy mgmt. With no hardware purchase required, the vendor said it offers the ability to launch in just days. -- **Great Lakes Data Systems** launched its content authorization service for TV Everywhere. Dubbed WinCAP, the service offers ISPs and their subs centralized multi-screen account and parental control management, integrated with Web-based self-care portal CableAny-Time. WinCAP will power **NBC's** London Olympics authorization for several ops, including **BELD Broadband**, **Cable Systems of Nevada**, **San Bruno Cable**, **Spencer Municipal Utilities** and others. -- The new National Video Operations Center at **Comcast's** Dry Creek, CO, facility is now available to subs of its HITS business unit. -- Nice get for the Indy Show, which brought in **Fox News** reporter and anchor *Bret Baier* for a luncheon speech and slide-show recounting his many travels and sometimes "awkward" moments with newsmakers—especially when he hits them with tough questions. As for why today's politicians can't seem to get along personally, Baier said the partisan bickering across much of TV news doesn't help. "It raises the decibel level," he said.

**Retrans:** **Time Warner Cable's** battle with **Hearst** is over, but now **Meredith** stations are making noise. TWC subs could lose several stations Wed when the op's contract with the broadcasters expires. The affected stations are **CBS** affil **KCTA** and **MyNetworkTV** affil **KSMO** in Kansas City, MO; **NBC** affil **WSMV** in Nashville and **CBS** affil **WSHM** in Springfield, MA. All the standard language for a good retrans throwdown is in place, including Meredith's claim that it's seeking only "pennies a day," while TWC calls the price hike in the 200+% ballpark.

**Lobbying Bills:** Among major cable lobbying spenders in Q2, **Comcast** spent nearly \$4mln in the quarter, followed by **DirecTV** (\$1.2mln) and **Time Warner Cable** (\$1.9mln). **AT&T** reported spending about \$3.5mln while **Verizon** spent nearly \$5mln in the period.

**All in the Family:** **USA's** new mini "Political Animals" (Sun, 10p) featuring *Sigourney Weaver* as a *Hillary Clinton*-like Secretary of State has a bit of life imitating art imitating life and a cable insider angle all rolled into one. The premiere ep 2 Sundays ago included a scene with National Security Advisor *Pauline Samson*, who's played by *Linda Powell*, who happens to be the sister of **NCTA** chief *Michael Powell*, who we hear is just a tad proud of his little sis. You could say Ms. Powell was born to play the part. Dad *Colin Powell* was National Security Adviser to *President Ronald Reagan* (1987-89). She makes another appearance in ep 4 on Aug 5.

# BUSINESS & FINANCE

**In Our Thoughts:** We continue to keep the victims of the Aurora, CO, shooting in our hearts. Littleton, CO-based **DISH**, which has employees dealing with family members affected by the shooting, is providing counseling. Sr mgmt put the wheels in motion just after 6am MT Fri, with news disseminated during the day on how to donate blood.

**Bundles, Baby:** Verizon Wireless and Comcast expanded their partnership to offer bundled promotions to parts of AZ, FL and NM. To incentivize consumers to sign up, the ops are offering up to \$300 in Visa gift cards in a total of 21 states. Other rewards include a free Comcast HD DVR for 6 months, a complimentary 12-month upgrade to Xfinity Internet service Blast and 12 months free of Comcast's AnyPlay service. Verizon and Time Warner Cable also expanded their bundled offering into parts of ME and NE.

**Technology: In Demand** is offering sports production services for Pac-12 Networks, including mobile production facilities and below-the-line crews for all 12 schools in the collegiate conference.

**People:** FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel tapped ex-Senate Commerce colleague David Goldman as new senior legal adviser. -- Jigsaw Productions hired Stacey Offman as vp, development & production, and Dave Snyder as vp, development.

## CableFAX Daily Stockwatch

Company	07/23 Close	1-Day Ch	Company	07/23 Close	1-Day Ch
<b>BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS</b>					
DIRECTV:	47.26	(1.07)	CONCURRENT:	4.20	0.02
DISH:	28.92	(0.57)	CONVERGYS:	14.48	(0.19)
DISNEY:	47.98	(0.61)	CSG SYSTEMS:	17.17	(0.55)
GE:	20.09	0.22	ECHOSTAR:	26.70	(0.2)
NEWS CORP:	22.00	(0.23)	GOOGLE:	615.51	4.69
<b>MSOS</b>					
CABLEVISION:	14.61	0.04	HARMONIC:	3.92	(0.09)
CHARTER:	73.52	(0.85)	INTEL:	25.26	(0.26)
COMCAST:	31.37	(0.81)	JDSU:	8.78	(0.53)
COMCAST SPCL:	31.00	(0.73)	LEVEL 3:	20.47	(0.35)
GCI:	9.14	(0.49)	MICROSOFT:	29.28	(0.83)
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	51.72	(0.52)	RENTRAK:	18.27	(0.76)
LIBERTY INT:	18.24	(0.13)	SEACHANGE:	7.36	(0.3)
SHAW COMM:	18.99	(0.23)	SONY:	11.70	(0.38)
TIME WARNER CABLE:	84.12	(0.68)	SPRINT NEXTEL:	3.57	(0.09)
VIRGIN MEDIA:	25.26	0.14	TIVO:	8.21	(0.08)
WASH POST:	355.51	(6.03)	UNIVERSAL ELEC:	13.09	(0.02)
<b>PROGRAMMING</b>					
AMC NETWORKS:	42.85	(0.42)	VONAGE:	1.84	(0.04)
CBS:	30.87	(0.62)	YAHOO:	15.76	(0.15)
CROWN:	1.72	(0.02)	<b>TELCOS</b>		
DISCOVERY:	49.26	(0.86)	AT&T:	35.38	0.09
GRUPO TELEVISA:	22.20	(0.23)	VERIZON:	44.35	(0.14)
HSN:	42.15	(0.13)	<b>MARKET INDICES</b>		
INTERACTIVE CORP:	48.15	(0.41)	DOW:	12721.46	(101.11)
LIONSGATE:	14.00	0.03	NASDAQ:	2890.15	(35.15)
LODGENET:	0.89	0.01	S&P 500:	1350.52	(12.14)
NEW FRONTIER:	1.58	(0.04)	<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>		
OUTDOOR:	6.97	(0.21)	ADVANTAGE:	2.05	(0.11)
SCRIPPS INT:	53.39	(0.45)	ALCATEL LUCENT:	1.12	(0.02)
TIME WARNER:	37.49	(1.37)	AMDOCS:	29.11	(0.58)
VALUEVISION:	2.03	(0.15)	AMPHENOL:	58.10	(0.08)
VIACOM:	48.04	(0.86)	AOL:	27.57	(0.24)
WWE:	7.59	(0.16)	APPLE:	603.83	(0.47)
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>					
ARRIS GROUP:	13.20	(0.42)	ARRIS GROUP:	13.20	(0.42)
AVID TECH:	7.25	(0.18)	AVID TECH:	7.25	(0.18)
BLNDER TONGUE:	1.00	(0.1)	BLNDER TONGUE:	1.00	(0.1)
BROADCOM:	30.98	(0.64)	BROADCOM:	30.98	(0.64)
CISCO:	16.07	(0.29)	CISCO:	16.07	(0.29)
CLEARWIRE:	1.02	UNCH	CLEARWIRE:	1.02	UNCH

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