

CableFAX Daily™

Tuesday — September 17, 2013

What the Industry Reads First

Volume 24 / No. 180

Blossoming Broadcasters: Nexstar-Citadel Latest in Series of Station Deals

When the summer started, it was cable making all the consolidation news with an abundance of rumors. But it has been the broadcasters actually making acquisitions. The latest came Mon, with **Nexstar** announcing a deal to acquire **Citadel's** stations in Des Moines, Sioux City and Rock Island, IL, for \$88mln. **Mission Broadcasting** will acquire 2 stations in Binghamton, NY, from **Stainless Broadcasting** for \$15.25mln. Nexstar already owns **WGBH** and **WIVT** in Binghamton. Upon closing this and other previously announced transactions, Nexstar's portfolio of stations that it owns, operates, programs or to which it provides sales and other services will increase to 96 stations in 51 markets, reaching approx 14.6% of all US television households. Nexstar and Mission teamed up earlier this year to acquire **Communications Corp of America** and **White Knight Broadcasting**, with **ACA** opposing their intent to enter into sharing agreements with same marketing stations. Late Fri, ACA petitioned the **FCC** to block or condition **Sinclair Broadcast Group's** acquisition of **Allbritton** stations in 2 markets where Sinclair already owns 1 or more stations (Harrisburg, PA, and Charleston, SC). Sinclair, which is paying nearly \$1bln for 8 Allbritton stations, plans to assign its own stations in these markets to 3rd parties while providing support services through sharing agreements. ACA, **Time Warner Cable** and others have argued that the FCC should clarify these type of sharing agreements under media ownership rules, saying they give broadcasters unfair leverage. **Free Press** and **Rainbow PUSH** also have filed petitions to deny the Sinclair-Allbritton deal. In July, **DirectTV**, TWC and ACA filed a petition to deny **Gannett's** \$2.2bln acquisition of **Belo**, saying it would create "new virtual duopolies and facilitate coordinated retransmission consent negotiations" in St Louis, Phoenix and Tucson markets. Other broadcast deals announced this summer include **Tribune's** \$2.7bln proposed purchase of 19 **Local TV Holdings'** stations, which Free Press opposed, pointing to stations that have be spun off to meet the newspaper-broadcast cross-ownership ban and the shared service agreements they'll have with Tribune. Given the close scrutiny retrans consent is getting these days and the increasing number of broadcast transactions, look for Nexstar-Citadel and any other station sale to go under the microscope. Nexstar will immediately begin operating the Citadel stations under a Time Brokerage Agree-

FASTEST GROWING ENTERTAINMENT NETWORK*

DOUBLE-DIGIT INCREASES ACROSS ALL KEY DAYPARTS

TVGN™
A CBS | LIONSGATE PARTNERSHIP

CASTING ←

Mother of all Talent
PREMIERES OCTOBER 22

SOURCE: NIELSEN, EXPLORER, L+SD, (000), HH, P2+, W25-54, A18-49, W18-49, STRICT DAYPART, 2Q13-4/1/13-6/30/13, 3Q13-7/1/13-8/18/13 DAYPARTS: MF 9A-2A+SA/SU 11A-2A, MSU 7P-12A, MF 9A-4P, MF 4P-7P, MSU 12A-2A, SA/SU 11A-7P *MF 9A-2A+SA/SU 11A-2A; 3Q13 VS. 2Q13, ENTERTAINMENT NETWORK — EXCLUDES SPORTS NETS

CABLEFAX DAILY (ISSN 1069-6644) is published daily by Access Intelligence, LLC ● www.cablefax.com ● 301.354.2101 ● Editor-in-Chief: Amy Maclean, 301.354.1760, amaclean@accessintel.com ● Exec Editor: Michael Grebb, 323.380.6263, mgrebb@accessintel.com ● Editor: Joyce Wang, 301.354.1828, jwang@accessintel.com ● Community Editor: Kaylee Hultgren, 212.621.4200, khultgren@accessintel.com ● Advisor: Seth Arenstein ● Assoc Publisher: Amy Abbey, 301.354.1629, aabbey@accessintel.com ● Sales Mgr: Susan Kim, 301.354.2010, skim@accessintel.com ● Dir of Market Dev: Laurie Hofmann, 301.354.1796, lhofmann@accessintel.com ● Prod: Jo Fato, jfato@accessintel.com ● Diane Schwartz, SVP Media Comms Group ● Scott Gentry, Dir of Bus Dev, sgentry@accessintel.com ● Group Subs: Amy Russell, 301.354.1599, arussell@accessintel.com ● Sub Questions, Client Services: 301.354.2101, clientservices@accessintel.com
Access Intelligence, LLC, 4 Choke Cherry Road, 2nd Floor, Rockville, MD 20850

ment. Nexstar said the transactions are expected to close in early 1Q of '14, pending FCC approval and other customary closing conditions.

Retrans: Media General is sounding the alert, warning that its retrans consent contract with **DISH** expires on Sept 30. "Our television station has been an important part of this community for almost 60 years, and it is unfortunate that DISH does not recognize our fair market value," said *Randy Ingram*, gm of **WBTW**, a CBS affil serving Florence/Myrtle Beach. SC. The station has launched DontDropWBTW.com to give viewers apprised of negotiations.

Universe Estimates: Nielsen has released its total TV Universe estimate, bumping it from 114.2mln to 115.8mln homes. The increase helped edge **Weather Channel's** distribution over the 100mln mark to 101mln. Just about every network saw an uptick, with Nielsen expanding the definition of a TV HH to include those that have at least 1 operable TV monitor connected via broadband. "This increase of 1.6mln homes to the total universe is eclipsed by an average cable network increase of 2.6mln homes in the past year," said *John Morse* of **Byron Media**. And while there's plenty of talk about cord-cutting, Nielsen's estimate of the total number of wired cable homes grew from 68.6mln homes this month from 68.2mln in Sept 2012. The number did dip to about 67.8mln for the first 4 months of the year.

VOD: Comcast will feature "Xfinity Freeview Latino," a 2-week pass to more than 1K hours of free Latino entertainment, including telenovelas, TV dramas, docs, movies and more across broadcast, cable and premium nets in both Spanish and English. The free VOD stunt will take place Sept 23-Oct 6.

Emmys: HBO's 20 Creative Arts Emmys, including 8 for "Behind the Candelabra," were the most for any network. The awards took place Sun, with an edited version slated to air on **FX** Sat at 9pm. **CBS** was 2nd with 15 honors. The Primetime Creative Arts Emmys are typically held the weekend before the live Primetime Emmy telecast, and are largely dedicated to technical disciplines (such as art direction, makeup, music). Other winners include **NBC** (8); **Cartoon, Disney.com, Nick, PBS** and **Showtime** (each with 3); and **CNN, Comedy Central, Discovery, Fox, FX, History, Netflix** and **Starz** (2 each).

Ratings: AMC's "Breaking Bad" scored its most-watched ep in series history this weekend, with a 4.2 HH ratings and 6.4mln total viewers. **Trendrr** data has it as the #1 show of the night in social activity, with **SocialGlue** reporting more than 604K total tweets. -- **TVGN's** strategy of using **CBS** fare seems to be paying off. "Big Brother: After Dark," a companion series to CBS' "Big Brother," and replays of "The Young and the Restless" have delivered triple-digit increases in women 25-54 and total viewers for the first 10 weeks of the 3Q, TVGN said.

Research: Al Jazeera America's coverage of the Syrian crisis "often resembled what Americans saw on other US cable news outlets," said a new study by the **Pew Research Center**. Like **CNN, MSNBC** and **Fox News**, Al Jazeera America devoted the biggest chunk of Syria coverage to the debate over whether the U.S. should become militarily involved in the conflict. AJA had a more global perspective in 2 areas: 6% of its stories were framed around the humanitarian crisis in the region (more than any cable net) and 9% were framed around other countries' views of the conflict (not including England). Of US cable channels, **BBC America** devoted 15% of stories to the subject while CNN was the next closest to AJA at 5%. "As the report indicates, Al Jazeera America's coverage shows that is an American news channel that provides unbiased, fact-based reporting that doesn't have a partisan or other point of view," said AJA pres *Kate O'Brian*, adding the net was especially pleased it had a greater focus on the humanitarian aspects and that more of its stories originated from the region.

Programming: It wasn't just "Breaking Bad" numbers that had people buzzing about **AMC** Mon. The net announced it is developing a companion series to "The Walking Dead," with a target on-air date of 2015. AMC Studios will produce with *Robert Kirkman, Gale Anne Hurd* and *David Alpert* on board as exec producers. "The opportunity to make a show that isn't tethered by the events of the comic book, and is truly a blank page, has set my creativity racing," Kirkman said in a statement. Season 4 of *Walking Dead* returns to AMC on Oct 13. -- **Velocity** debuts "Eurosport on Velocity," a new programming block that will bring Europe's largest sports net to US viewers from 1-3pm every Sat starting Sept 28. The block will encore on Sun morning. Velocity said it's the 1st time

BUSINESS & FINANCE

in Eurosport's 24-year history that the channel has been broadcast in the US. -- **Lifetime** ordered drama pilot "The Lottery," a conspiracy thriller set in a dystopian future when women stop having children. -- On Fri, **Discovery** debuts "Inside Raising Concordia" (10pm), a look at the salvage operation of the cruise ship that ran aground in Jan '12. -- **Smithsonian Channel** will bow "Terror in the Skies" on Sept 29, 8pm, a new series investigating near misses in the air. -- Comedian *Jerry Seinfeld* will join **SNY's** Mets coverage Tues, beginning with the pre-game at 6pm. -- **truTV** ordered 8 additional eps of "Killer Karaoke," with the series slated to return early next year.

Online: WICT Leadership Conference (Oct 7-8, NYC) attendees can download a platform-agnostic app that allows participants to customize their experience and interact via social media. Key features include an easy-to-navigate agenda with the ability to customize schedules; to take notes within the app during a session and to receive updates and late-breaking alerts from WICT.

People: NATPE announced its newly elected members, which include **Discovery Comm** ad sales pres *Joe Abruzzese*, **Netflix** svp, head of program acquisitions *Sean Carey*; **NBCU** evp *Lauren Zalaznick* and others.

CableFAX Daily Stockwatch

Company	09/16 Close	1-Day Ch	Company	09/16 Close	1-Day Ch
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS					
21ST CENTURY FOX:	32.60	(0.03)	ECHOSTAR:	43.08	0.20
DIRECTV:	61.92	0.15	GOOGLE:	887.76	(1.31)
DISH:	46.94	(0.78)	HARMONIC:	7.52	0.01
DISNEY:	66.94	0.25	INTEL:	23.39	(0.05)
GE:	24.14	0.36	JDSU:	14.98	(0.03)
MSOS					
CABLEVISION:	17.65	UNCH	LEVEL 3:	25.96	(0.03)
CHARTER:	129.18	0.43	MICROSOFT:	32.80	(0.23)
COMCAST:	44.42	0.45	RENTRAK:	32.07	0.16
COMCAST SPCL:	43.04	0.40	SEACHANGE:	11.52	(0.1)
GCI:	9.08	(0.2)	SONY:	21.46	0.28
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	77.85	0.37	SPRINT NEXTEL:	6.64	(0.08)
LIBERTY INT:	23.52	(0.04)	TIVO:	12.15	(0.09)
SHAW COMM:	23.43	0.15	UNIVERSAL ELEC:	31.22	(1.21)
TIME WARNER CABLE:	112.32	1.11	VONAGE:	3.09	(0.06)
WASH POST:	579.12	(0.28)	YAHOO:	29.62	0.36
PROGRAMMING					
AMC NETWORKS:	62.74	0.35	TELCOS		
CBS:	55.94	0.48	AT&T:	34.57	0.25
CROWN:	3.16	0.04	VERIZON:	48.30	0.54
DISCOVERY:	78.65	0.82	MARKET INDICES		
GRUPO TELEVISIA:	28.17	0.37	DOW:	15494.78	118.72
HSN:	54.76	(0.83)	NASDAQ:	3717.85	(4.34)
INTERACTIVE CORP:	53.40	0.29	S&P 500:	1697.60	9.61
LIONSGATE:	37.45	0.51			
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN:	55.92	(0.06)			
SCRIPPS INT:	75.55	1.32			
STARZ:	26.58	0.54			
TIME WARNER:	62.72	0.16			
VALUEVISION:	4.34	(0.26)			
VIACOM:	83.23	0.56			
WWE:	9.79	(0.37)			
TECHNOLOGY					
ADVANTAGE:	2.43	(0.05)			
ALCATEL LUCENT:	3.33	(0.12)			
AMDOCS:	37.25	0.21			
AMPHENOL:	78.08	0.79			
AOL:	33.80	(0.13)			
APPLE:	450.12	(14.78)			
ARRIS GROUP:	16.43	(0.11)			
AVID TECH:	5.30	(0.11)			
BLNDER TONGUE:	0.93	0.01			
BROADCOM:	26.91	0.81			
CISCO:	24.38	0.06			
CONCURRENT:	7.55	(0.28)			
CONVERGYS:	18.65	0.28			
CSG SYSTEMS:	23.98	0.18			

JOIN US FOR

THE KAITZ DINNER

THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2013 ~ NEW YORK MARRIOTT MARQUIS

CableFAX TECH

OTT Everywhere...

It seems like a week doesn't go by anymore without a plethora of OTT news. Just Mon, **Unified Video Technologies** (UNIV) announced a partnership with **Akamai** and **thePlatform** to support UNIV's an OTT-based VOD system. The system, based on proprietary tech by UNIV, is designed to let distributors quickly launch branded services, with an eye toward ops who either can't afford or don't want to design their own systems. Meanwhile, as operators look to customize multiplatform delivery, **Vimond Media Solutions** announced it will start unbundling its products for distributors that don't need an end-to-end solution. Vimond claims to be the first tech provider of its kind to offer a component-based option. Standalone products now include Vimond Cross Resume, which collects all end-user logins in a database, enabling users to, for example, pause a video on one device and continue playback from another; Vimond Device Control, a multiplatform rights management service; and Vimond Event Analyzer, a turnkey indexing/chaptering service. And then there's **Concurrent**, which announced the next generation of software for its MediaHawk VX content delivery product that now enables operators to stream video content over both private and public networks to reach more screens. Existing Concurrent customers can upgrade their currently deployed.

Hopped Up: In news sure to thrill ad-supported cable nets and broadcasters, **DISH's** ad-skipping Hopper Whole-Home DVR product took home **Cable & Satellite International's** "Best Customer Premise Technology" award at the **International Broadcasters Convention** (IBC) last week. "Hopper is the industry's most awarded DVR, and the best home technology win at IBC reaffirms its superiority," said DISH svp, product **Vivek Khemka**. DISH also won CSI awards for its PrimeTime Anytime DVR tech, its DISH Anywhere app, its Hopper Transfers app that allows porting of Hop-

per recordings from the DVR to the iPad and the DISH Explorer 2nd-screen app.

Research: As distributors take on more responsibility for IP video delivery, the digital rights management market is expected to grow at a rate of 12% annually to become a \$1.2bln market by '18, **ABI Research** said. It expects the traditional conditional access market to decline slightly to dip below \$1.5bln annually. "Opportunities within the DRM market include multiple components, comprising authentication, intellectual property and tools, core DRM technologies, and implementation services and Pay TV services," the research firm said. Premium value content protection, as well as live streaming of TV Everywhere, are emerging areas within the DRM environment. "It is these areas where providers need to be focused on differentiation today," ABI said.

People in Tech: **Marcien Jenckes** has taken on a bigger role at **Comcast Cable**, moving to evp, consumer services to oversee the MSOs new Consumer Services Group, which combines all of Comcast Cable's consumer business units including video, Internet, phone and home. He'll report to Comcast Cable evp/COO **Dave Watson**. Jenckes was instrumental in rolling out Comcast's Xfinity TV products, including integration into the Xbox 360, as well as Xfinity TV and Player apps. Jenckes also led the roll out of the cloud-based X1 Platform. -- **RDK Management**, a company formed last month by **Comcast** and **Time Warner Cable** to push for a common Reference Design Kit for the industry, named Comcast vp, licensing and strategic development **Steve Heeb** as pres/gm. "His ability to build relationships and consensus among a diverse group of OEMs, MVPDs, and other key vendors and supplier constituencies will serve the RDK community well," said Comcast svp, business and industry affairs **Mark Hess**. -- And we knew he'd turn up. Former **Motorola Mobility** pres **Dan Moloney** joined **TiVo's** board, increasing membership to 8 directors.

CableFAX

TV Innovation Summit

Monetizing Apps, TVE and Social TV

September 24, 2013 | New York City

This unique, insight-packed CableFAX summit will tell you everything you need to know about how TV Everywhere, Social TV and 2nd Screen Apps are converging to offer new revenue and retention opportunities for TV content owners and distributors.

Register today at: www.CableFAXTVSummit.com

Questions: Saun Sayamongkhun, saun@accessintel.com 301-354-1694.

Sponsorships: Amy Abbey, aabbey@accessintel.com 301-354-1629

Sponsored by: Carlsen Resources, Inc. | Clearleap Inc. | Viamedia
SeaChange International Media Partner: Parks Associates