

Cablefax Daily™

Monday — January 12, 2015

What the Industry Reads First

Volume 26 / No. 006

Modern Grown-Ups: Out with TVGN, In With Pop at TCA

As TVGN prepares to officially become **Pop** on Jan 14, the **CBS/Lionsgate** jv will court “modern grown-ups” and shun snarkiness as it celebrates “that spirit of looking at the world with wide-eyed enthusiasm,” said **Brad Schwartz**, pres, entertainment and media. The net officially introduced itself to TV critics at **TCA** on Fri, and during an exec session Schwartz pointed to its “Rock This Boat” series about New Kids on the Block fans who pay to spend five days on a cruise ship with members of the '90s boy band as an example of the type of feel-good programming it wants to cultivate. “Fandom is fun,” he said. “It’s optimistic.” Schwartz even sees that show as “a potential franchise series for us. We think we could follow two or three of these fan cruises per year” or even leverage it into other venues such as a “Rock This Comic-Con” series. Schwartz told TV critics curious how the net plans to differentiate itself from **E!** and others that its focus on people who grew up in the '80s and '90s (ie, 35- to 45-year-olds), combined with a focus on celebrated fandom, will define the net. “It’s kind of like ‘What would *Jimmy Fallon* do?,” he said, noting the talk-show host’s almost child-like fascination with his guests. “If you could bottle that and create a brand out of that, I think that’s sort of a North Star for us.” Pop has a bit of buzz out of the gate with “Schitt’s Creek,” its single-camera comedy about a rich family that loses all its money and must live in a rural town it bought as a joke years ago. In keeping with the '80s/90s demo, the show reunites familiar “SCTV” alums **Eugene Levy** and **Catherine O’Hara**, and came largely from the mind of Levy’s son Daniel, who also stars as Levy’s character’s son on the show. When we caught up with him at TCA, **Daniel Levy** lauded cable for “giving creators the reins to really create something in their voice and run free with it.” But does the show’s role largely anchoring Pop’s launch ramp up the pressure on the cast? Not really, Eugene Levy told us. “We’ve done everything we could,” he said. “I think they have the show that they were looking for, and they couldn’t be more enthusiastic about taking this on, and we feel good about the show.”

AT&T-DirecTV Comments: Reply comments were due at the **FCC** last week on the proposed **AT&T-DirecTV** merger, with responses ranging from concern over RSN power to independent networks fretting about carriage. **ACA** told the Commission that the companies failed to tackle its concerns about vertical harms to rival MVPDs and instead maintained that program access conditions aren’t needed because they don’t have substantial content holdings. “The amount of AT&T-DirecTV

Corporate Licenses

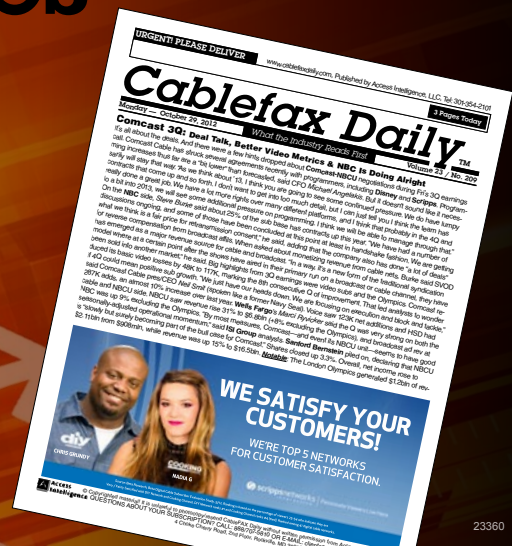
Cablefax Daily

WHAT THE INDUSTRY READS FIRST.

Get reduced subscription rates for multiple readers in your organization.

Find out more!
Contact Laurie Hofmann at
LHofmann@accessintel.com

www.cablefax.com



2015

Cable Hall of Fame

CELEBRATION

SAVE THE DATE

MAY 5, 2015 | NAVY PIER | 600 EAST GRAND AVE, CHICAGO, IL 60611

2015 Honorees



CHRIS BERMAN
Sportscaster,
ESPN



WILLIAM H. ROEDY
Global Health Ambassador
and Former Chairman
and CEO,
MTV Networks International



STEVE SIMMONS
Chairman
Patriot Media and
Communications



JC SPARKMAN
Chief Operating Officer,
TCI
(Retired)



TONY WERNER
Executive Vice President
and Chief Technology Officer,
Comcast Cable



ELEANOR WINTER
Senior Vice President,
NCTA

For more information, or to secure a sponsorship, contact Jaime Reitz
at 720.502.7513 or jreitz@cablecenter.org

THE **CABLECENTER**

www.CableHallOfFame.com

thank you to our sponsors

as of 1/7

Cablefax

Multichannel

BROADBAND
LIBRARY

CYNOPSISMEDIA

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 ● Associate Publisher: Michael Grebb, 323.380.6263, mgrebb@accessintel.com ● Editor: Joyce Wang, 301.354.1828, jwang@accessintel.com ● Sr Community Editor: Kaylee Hultgren, 212.621.4200, khultgren@accessintel.com ● Advisor: Seth Arenstein ● Dir. of Business Dev.: Rich Hauptner, 203.899.8460, rhauptner@accessintel.com ● Jr. Acct. Exec: Olivia Murray, 301.354.2010, omurray@accessintel.com ● Dir of Market Dev: Laurie Hofmann, 301.354.1796, lhofmann@accessintel.com ● Production: Joann Fato, jfato@accessintel.com ● Diane Schwartz, SVP Media Comms Group, dschwartz@accessintel.com ● Group Subs: Laurie Hofmann, 301.354.1796, lhofmann@accessintel.com ● Sub Questions, Client Services: 301.354.2101, clientservices@accessintel.com ● Annual subscription price: \$1,649/year ● Access Intelligence, LLC, 4 Choke Cherry Road, 2nd Floor, Rockville, MD 20850

content holdings is irrelevant—the programming assets the combined entity will control are ‘must have’ for MVPDs providing service in the RSN markets,” the group said. Complaining that AT&T has demanded access fees for its content to reach subs, **Netflix** said a merger would increase the telco’s incentive to harm competition in the online video marketplace. **DISH** declared that AT&T and DirecTV, in their comments at the Commission, have failed entirely to refute the need for a wholesale broadband condition. DISH wants unaffiliated companies to be able to pay wholesale rates for U-verse broadband access that they can market under their own brand name. “A combined AT&T/DIRECTV will be able to degrade the quality of DISH’s various broadband-powered online video services (and those of other OTT video providers) by manipulating traffic on the AT&T network en route to the end user to disadvantage DISH’s video content,” it argued. **RFD-TV** said it has met with resistance in recent months to efforts to extend its distribution agreement with DirecTV, which doesn’t carry its HD feed or **RuralTV/FamilyNet**. But indies **BabyFirst** and **Hubbard Broadcasting (Reelz and Ovation’s parent)** spoke up in support of the deal. **TiVo** said the companies failed to address its request that the FCC condition the merger by requiring the new company to make available to retail manufacturers the same conditional access solution it uses in its system. -- Meanwhile, the FCC’s merger review clock in the proposed **Comcast-Time Warner Cable** transaction is slated to restart on Mon. The FCC stopped the clock Dec 22 as it sifted through a “significant number” of docs that it said weren’t timely produced.

New Senator Jumps into Retrans Spat: *Steve Daines* (R-MT) has only been a US Senator for a few days, but one of his first actions was to call on **DirecTV** and **Cordillera** to end their week-long dispute that has left constituents without **CBS** stations ahead of Sun’s Broncos-Colts playoff game. Noting that off-air antenna viewing is not possible for many rural MT residents, Daines wrote in a letter to the companies that the dispute means subs are “missing local news, public affairs programming and emergency weather alerts that they have subscribed to and expect to receive.” DirecTV subs have been without 10 Cordillera stations since Jan 1, including **KVOA-NBC** in Tucson, AZ, and **KPAX-CBS** in Missoula, MT. A few other New Year’s blackouts also continue with **Coastal Television’s** Anchorage **Fox** station still dark and it was slated to lose the **Anchorage ABC** station Fri. **Verizon FiOS** was without **Bristlecone Broadcasting’s WSYT** and **WNYS** in Syracuse for 4 days, but the 2 reached a new agreement Wed.

Fox’s Ratings Slide: **Fox News** remains dark on **DISH** and it seems to be taking a toll on ratings. The channel averaged 1.55m total viewers in prime for the month of Dec and 2.1m for the month of Nov. How did it do in the week of 2015 (Dec 29-Jan 4)? It had 967K viewers, still more than enough to make it the #1 news net of the week, but a significant drop. DISH dropped Fox News and **Fox Business** on Dec 20. Of course, along with rating losses come provider switches, with Fox telling *Multi* that by its estimates, DISH has lost some 90K subs. DISH has not released any sub numbers.

Internet Tax Ban: **House Judiciary** chmn *Bob Goodlatte* (R-VA) and Rep *Anna Eshoo* (D-CA) have reintroduced the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act, which passed the House by a voice vote last Congress. The legislation makes the ban on Internet access taxes permanent. Right now, it’s set to expire Oct 1, following 5 previous extensions since the temporary ban was put in place in 1998. “Passage of this bill would ensure that millions of consumers will not be burdened with an increase to their monthly Internet bills due to new state and local access taxes,” Eshoo said.

In Demand Renews UFC Deal: **In Demand** scored a multi-year contract renewal with **Zuffa**, owner of **UFC**, to offer PPV events. The deal includes expanded rights including the ability of In Demand affiliates to offer EST (ownership via Electronic Sell-Through), and sales of the PPV events to commercial establishments. In addition, affils can offer the UFC’s digital streaming service UFC Fight Pass to video subs through authentication.

Universal Sports Carriage: **Universal Sports’** recent pact with **NCTC** has netted launches with **Atlantic Broadband**, **Buckeye CableSystem** and **Consolidated Communications**. The NCTC deal includes access to VOD and TVE content.

No More New Comcast Energy Rewards Enrollment: **Comcast** will no longer accept new enrollments to its Energy Rewards program “due to upcoming changes,” the MSO said on its website. The company teamed with **NRG Energy** unit **Independence Energy Group** last year to launch the initiative that offers various rewards and perks including 3 free months of **HBO**, **Showtime** or **Starz** and prepaid **Visa** cards to subs in PA who enroll in the program. The initiative offered energy plans including a 6-month “Guaranteed Savings” plan that offers a 10% savings off the utility bill and a plan that offers a fixed price over a 12-month period. The move won’t affect subs already enrolled in the program, a spokeswoman said. Energy Rewards was a pilot program, and the company is exploring other options in the energy business, she said.

Cablefax Week in Review

Company	Ticker	01/09 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS				
DIRECTV:	DTV	85.38	(1.52%)	23.63%
DISH:	DISH	71.79	(1.51%)	23.95%
ENTRAVISION:	EVC	6.25	(3.55%)	2.63%
GRAY TELEVISION:	GTN	10.44	(6.79%)	0.68%
MEDIA GENERAL:	MEG	15.71	(6.1%)	(30.49%)
NEXSTAR:	NXST	47.08	(9.09%)	(15.52%)
SINCLAIR:	SBGI	26.00	(4.97%)	(27.23%)

Company	Ticker	01/09 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
MSOS				
CABLEVISION:	CVC	19.78	(4.17%)	10.32%
CHARTER:	CHTR	161.98	(2.78%)	18.44%
COMCAST:	CMCSA	56.29	(2.97%)	8.31%
COMCAST SPCL:	CMCSK	55.86	(2.95%)	11.99%
GCI:	GNCMA	14.00	1.82%	25.56%
GRAHAM HOLDING:	GHC	870.47	0.78%	31.23%
LIBERTY BROADBAND:	LBRDA	48.89	(2.4%)	0.00%
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	LBTYA	47.60	(5.18%)	(24.4%)
SHAW COMM:	SJR	26.25	(2.74%)	7.85%
TIME WARNER CABLE:	TWC	146.36	(3.75%)	8.01%

Company	Ticker	01/09 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
PROGRAMMING				
21ST CENTURY FOX:	FOXA	35.38	(7.89%)	0.60%
AMC NETWORKS:	AMCX	63.22	(0.86%)	(7.18%)
CBS:	CBS	54.56	(1.41%)	(14.4%)
CROWN:	CRWN	3.44	(2.82%)	(2.55%)
DISCOVERY:	DISCA	32.03	(7.02%)	(64.58%)
DISNEY:	DIS	94.25	0.06%	23.36%
GRUPO TELEVISIA:	TV	33.58	(1.41%)	10.97%
HSN:	HSNI	75.55	(0.59%)	21.27%
LIONSGATE:	LGF	30.75	(3.97%)	(2.87%)
MSG:	MSG	73.82	(1.91%)	28.20%
SCRIPPS INT:	SNI	74.93	(0.45%)	(13.29%)
STARZ:	STRZA	27.77	(6.5%)	(5.03%)
TIME WARNER:	TWX	84.21	(1.42%)	20.78%
VIACOM:	VIA	71.68	(5.06%)	(18.33%)
WWE:	WWE	10.93	(11.43%)	(34.08%)

Company	Ticker	01/09 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
TECHNOLOGY				
ADDVANTAGE:	AEY	2.46	2.07%	(8.55%)
AMDOCS:	DOX	46.98	0.69%	13.92%
AMPHENOL:	APH	53.60	(0.39%)	(39.9%)
AOL:	AOL	48.99	6.11%	5.08%
APPLE:	AAPL	112.01	1.48%	19.54%
ARRIS GROUP:	ARRS	27.72	(8.18%)	13.89%
AVID TECH:	AVID	14.70	3.45%	80.37%
BLNDER TONGUE:	BDR	2.27	(15.61%)	127.00%
BROADCOM:	BRCM	42.24	(2.52%)	42.46%
CISCO:	CSCO	27.79	(0.11%)	23.90%
COMMSCOPE:	CTV	25.76	0.47%	(2.9%)
CONCURRENT:	CCUR	7.04	(0.71%)	(13.83%)
CONVERGYS:	CVG	20.14	(1.08%)	(4.32%)
CSG SYSTEMS:	CSGS	24.80	(1.08%)	(15.65%)
EHOSTAR:	SATS	51.79	(1.35%)	4.16%
GOOGLE:	GOOG	496.17	(5.74%)	(55.73%)
HARMONIC:	HLIT	6.78	(3.28%)	(8.13%)
INTEL:	INTC	36.76	1.30%	41.60%
INTERACTIVE CORP:	IACI	61.51	1.18%	(10.4%)

Company	Ticker	01/09 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
JDSU:	JDSU	13.43	(2.11%)	3.39%
LEVEL 3:	LVL	47.21	(4.39%)	42.33%
MICROSOFT:	MSFT	47.19	1.59%	26.14%
NETFLIX:	NFLX	329.29	(3.61%)	(10.56%)
NIELSEN:	NLSN	42.72	(4.49%)	(6.91%)
RENTRAK:	RENT	68.92	(5.36%)	81.88%
SEACHANGE:	SEAC	6.61	3.61%	(45.64%)
SONY:	SNE	21.34	4.25%	23.42%
SPRINT NEXTEL:	S	4.13	(0.48%)	(61.58%)
TIVO:	TIVO	10.70	(10.46%)	(18.45%)
UNIVERSAL ELEC:	UEIC	64.26	(1.18%)	68.62%
VONAGE:	VG	4.07	6.82%	71.73%
YAHOO:	YHOO	49.72	(1.56%)	22.95%

Company	Ticker	01/09 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
TELCOS				
AT&T:	T	33.40	3.86%	(5.01%)
CENTURYLINK:	CTL	38.40	(2.98%)	20.57%
TDS:	TDS	24.20	(4.16%)	(6.13%)
VERIZON:	VZ	46.76	(0.04%)	(4.84%)

Index	Value	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg	
MARKET INDICES				
DOW:	DJI	17737.37	(0.48%)	7.00%
NASDAQ:	IXIC	4704.07	(0.68%)	12.63%
S&P 500:	GSPC	2044.81	(0.68%)	10.63%

WINNERS & LOSERS

THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE WINNERS

COMPANY	CLOSE	1-WK CH
1. VONAGE:	4.07	6.82%
2. AOL:	48.99	6.11%
3. SONY:	21.34	4.25%
4. AT&T:	33.40	3.86%
5. SEACHANGE:	6.61	3.61%

THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE LOSERS

COMPANY	CLOSE	1-WK CH
1. BLNDER TONGUE:	2.27	(15.61%)
2. WWE:	10.93	(11.43%)
3. TIVO:	10.70	(10.46%)
4. NEXSTAR:	47.08	(9.09%)
5. ARRIS GROUP:	27.72	(8.18%)

Who deserves to appear in Cablefax's annual power player list?

Nomination Deadline: January 30 | Free to Enter



The Cablefax 100 salutes the most influential cable executives whose leadership continues to take the industry to new heights. Nominate your colleagues, your boss or even yourself for a coveted spot in the Cablefax 100.

It's free to enter – but you must submit your nominations by January 30.

Enter at www.cablefax.com/awards

