

Cablefax Daily™

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What the Industry Reads First

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Spectrum Dealings: More Spectrum Coming for WiFi Use

Cable operators will be happy to hear that the **FCC** is in the final stages of crafting new rules for the 3.5 GHz band, which will open up a total of 150 MHz band for wireless broadband. At the **House Communications** subcommittee hearing on spectrum policy Thurs, 4 FCC officials told lawmakers that through new innovative sharing technologies and policies, the FCC can make the spectrum available for a variety of commercial use such as carrier-grade WiFi, backhaul, and general consumer use, while continuing to protect important federal missions and other incumbent users. Federal use in this band occurs mainly around the coasts, making it an ideal block for intensive wireless broadband use on a shared basis. Cable has been pushing for freeing up more spectrum and finding new ways to use existing spectrum for unlicensed use, especially in light of the growth of WiFi. Representing the FCC Thurs were *Gary Epstein*, chair of the incentive auction task force, *Julius Knapp*, chief of the Office of Engineering and Technology, *John Leibovitz*, deputy Wireless Bureau chief, and *Roger Sherman*, Wireless bureau chief. Last year, the FCC approved an order to open up 100 MHz of spectrum in the 5GHz band for WiFi use, a big win for ISPs as they deploy advanced services such as gigabit WiFi. The agency is working with its federal counterparts and industry to explore and develop sharing strategies to enable co-existence between unlicensed and other uses in an additional 195 MHz in the 5 GHz band, the FCC witnesses noted. On the spectrum auction front, the FCC plans to start accepting applications for the incentive auction this fall and is on track to conduct the auction in 1Q16. It's working on auction procedures and final recommendations for auction rules. Meanwhile, spectrum seems to be one of the few bipartisan issues on the Hill. A group of lawmakers from both sides of the aisle reintroduced the Federal Spectrum Incentive Act in the Senate and the House Thurs. It mirrors legislation 1st introduced in the House in 2013. The bill aims to encourage federal agencies to give up unused or underused spectrum by allowing them to share the profits when the spectrum is auctioned for commercial use. Co-sponsors of the bill include Reps *Doris Matsui* (D-CA), *Brett Guthrie* (R-KY), *Greg Walden* (R-OR) and *Anna Eshoo* (D-CA), and Senators *Ed Markey* (D-MA) and *Deb Fischer* (R-NE) on the Senate side. Allowing agencies to share spec-

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trum auction proceeds will be a “game-changer,” Matsui said during the hearing. “By incentivizing agencies to take a hard look at their modern spectrum needs and consider alternatives, we can free up even more spectrum for commercial or unlicensed use,” Walden said.

FCC Meeting: Under the mandate of the STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014 (STELAR), the **FCC** proposed during its open meeting Thurs an update of satellite TV market rules so that subs gain access to in-state news and other programming that they currently are unable to get. Congress, through Section 102 of STELAR, gave the Commission authority to modify a commercial TV station’s local market for purposes of satellite carriage rights. Prior to STELAR, the Commission had authority to modify markets only in the cable carriage context. The proposal would, as Congress directed, create regulatory parity between satellite and cable TV providers. The FCC is required to issue final rules for satellite TV market modification before Sept 4.

Cybersecurity: House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence passed unanimously the Protecting Cyber Networks Act Thurs. The bill, which allows companies legal liability protections when sharing cyber threat data within a civilian government agency, now moves to the full House for a vote. “This bill will help defend US networks against a wide array of cybercriminals who are becoming more active and more threatening every day... In light of the urgency of the situation, I encourage House members to support this bill,” committee chmn *Devin Nunes* (R-CA) said in a statement.

AT&T Doings: Following the recent launches in LA, MI, WI, AL and ID, **AT&T U-Verse** expanded its new 75 Mbps tier to Houston. The service costs \$39.95 a month when bundled with other U-Verse offerings and the standalone service is \$74.95 a month. The speed tier already has been rolled out to parts of Augusta, GA, Charleston, SC, Cleveland, Columbus, and Toledo, OH, El Paso, TX, Fort Lauderdale and Miami, FL, Monterey and Sacramento, CA, and St Louis, MO.

Cox’s Digital Rollout: **Cox** is expanding its digital transition to markets in RI and Tulsa, OK, according to a spokesman. New Orleans and Cleveland are coming up next on the digital transition plan. The company aims to complete the transition all of its markets to digital throughout the year and into 2016. The MSO started the transition late last year in CT. Moving to all-digital will allow it to free up spectrum currently being used for analog video for advanced offerings including DOCSIS 3.1 and VOD.

From the Streets: It’s highly unlikely that any of the pay-tv subscribers who describe themselves as “highly likely to cut the cord in the next 6 months” will actually cut the cord. That’s one of the findings from a focus group in San Francisco held by **Bernstein Research** analyst *Todd Juenger*. The focus group followed a similar panel held in NY. Entertainment content including reality TV and sports content are among the things that stop people from cutting the cord, according to the findings. For sports enthusiasts, sports is the only thing keeping them from cutting the cord, while non-sports enthusiasts tend to say they can’t cut the cord because shows they particularly like aren’t available online, or aren’t available soon enough online. Meanwhile, OTT skinny bundles seemed to have little appeal as none of the potential cord-cutters were interested in the **SlingTV** offering or (hypothetical) a la carte. A big reason is that these streaming skinny bundles don’t have enough channels. In addition, pay-TV bundles are helping to keep customers tethered to the cord. A surprising number of participants are currently subscribing to pay-TV only because it is actually cheaper than buying high-speed internet on its own, Juenger reported.

WICT Signature Accolades: The **WICT** 2015 Signature Accolade winners include **Liberty Global/Virgin Media, A+E Networks/Lifetime, Comcast, Juniper Networks/Juniper Networks Foundation Fund** and **Suddenlink**. The awards, which recognize exemplary public service initiatives that positively impact women, will be presented at the WICT Signature Luncheon on May 5 in conjunction with **INTX**.

T Howard Dinner: Memorable night at **T. Howard Foundation’s** annual fundraising dinner in NYC Wed, emceed by a very funny and unflappable *Roland Martin*. The **TV One** daily morning show host implored the crowd to clap for the T. Howard interns “like they will be your boss in a few years.” He goaded the crowd into bidding on silent auction items—and even auctioned off his trademark pocket square (**Havas’ Paul Marobella** and **Lori Hiltz** took it home for \$1100). Martin even got the DJ to change the music from *Taylor Swift’s* “Shake it Off” to *James Brown’s* “I Feel Good.” The event recognized **Nuvo + Fuse Networks** CEO *Michael Schwimmer* with the Executive Leadership

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Award and filmmaker *Tyler Perry* with the Champion Award. At the dinner, the late *Stuart Scott* of ESPN's "SportsCenter" was honored. ESPN's *Sean Bratches* announced that the company would create a T. Howard Internship on behalf of Scott. "We are all better because of his passion," Bratches said.

Programming: History picked up a 4th season of its scripted series "Vikings." Production on the new season will begin this spring in Ireland. With 5 eps left, the current season finale is slated for April 23. -- **Outdoor Channel's** spring schedule is comprised of nearly 80 shows, including 3 new series, "GunnyTime with R. Lee Ermey," "Shootout Lane" and "Alaska's Ultimate Bush Pilots," as well as the net's 1st documentary, "Safe Haven: Gun-Free Zones in America" (April 1 and 8 at 4:30pm). -- **TLC's** "The Willis Family" (wt) is set to premiere May 5. The 13-ep series follows the 14-member family's life at home and on the road.

People: Jason Wyrick was promoted to vp, digital platforms at **Starz**. He will oversee more than 50 developers, creators and analysts and manage all technical aspects of Starz Play, **ENCORE** Play, MoviePlex Play, Starz.com and affil integrations. -- **Arris** tapped *Patrick Macken* as svp and general counsel. He will report to chmn/CEO *Bob Stanzone*.

Cablefax Daily Stockwatch

Company	03/26 Close	1-Day Ch	Company	03/26 Close	1-Day Ch
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS			CISCO:27.09.....(0.37)		
DIRECTV:	85.72	0.28	COMMScope:	26.55	0.01
DISH:	70.33	(0.43)	CONCURRENT:	6.42	(0.18)
ENTRAVISION:	6.45	(0.16)	CONVERGYS:	22.25	0.01
GRAY TELEVISION:	12.99	(0.31)	CSG SYSTEMS:	29.79	UNCH
MEDIA GENERAL:	15.87	(0.28)	ECHOSTAR:	50.77	(0.2)
NEXSTAR:	55.70	(0.56)	GOOGLE:	555.17	(3.61)
SINCLAIR:	30.70	(0.31)	HARMONIC:	7.28	(0.02)
MSOS			INTEL:	30.08	0.19
CABLEVISION:	18.06	(0.02)	INTERACTIVE CORP:	66.30	(0.55)
CHARTER:	181.75	(1.25)	JDSU:	13.03	(0.01)
COMCAST:	55.91	(0.62)	LEVEL 3:	53.65	0.14
COMCAST SPCL:	55.66	(0.67)	MICROSOFT:	41.21	(0.25)
GCI:	15.57	0.05	NETFLIX:	418.26	(3.49)
GRAHAM HOLDING:	1054.71	(19.68)	NIELSEN:	43.03	(0.04)
LIBERTY BROADBAND:	53.27	(0.53)	RENTRAK:	54.75	(0.38)
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	51.63	(0.16)	SEACHANGE:	8.15	(0.04)
SHAW COMM:	22.96	0.18	SONY:	26.54	(0.15)
SHENTEL:	31.53	0.16	SPRINT NEXTEL:	4.79	0.03
SHENTEL:	31.53	0.16	TIVO:	10.49	UNCH
TIME WARNER CABLE:	147.75	(1.3)	UNIVERSAL ELEC:	55.76	0.15
PROGRAMMING			VONAGE:	4.85	0.03
21ST CENTURY FOX:	33.94	(0.32)	YAHOO:	44.47	0.27
AMC NETWORKS:	73.15	(0.43)	TELCOS		
CBS:	61.00	(0.51)	AT&T:	32.82	0.20
CROWN:	4.27	0.12	CENTURYLINK:	34.56	(0.08)
DISCOVERY:	30.93	(0.62)	TDS:	25.23	(0.15)
DISNEY:	105.24	0.24	VERIZON:	48.42	(0.31)
GRUPO TELEVISA:	33.01	(0.45)	MARKET INDICES		
HSN:	66.79	(0.73)	DOW:	17678.23	(40.31)
LIONSGATE:	33.21	0.36	NASDAQ:	4863.36	(13.16)
MSG:	79.50	(0.73)	S&P 500:	2056.15	(4.9)
SCRIPPS INT:	69.38	(0.87)			
STARZ:	33.85	(0.08)			
TIME WARNER:	84.73	(0.44)			
VIACOM:	67.51	(0.51)			
WWE:	16.35	0.26			
TECHNOLOGY					
ADVANTAGE:	2.37	(0.01)			
AMDOCS:	53.78	0.38			
AMPHENOL:	57.50	(0.11)			
AOL:	38.91	(0.26)			
APPLE:	124.24	0.86			
ARRIS GROUP:	28.33	(0.31)			
AVID TECH:	14.78	(0.04)			
BLNDER TONGUE:	1.71	(0.03)			
BROADCOM:	42.15	(0.16)			



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PROGRAMMER'S PAGE

More than a Number

TV Land's new series "Younger" is rather a case of art imitating life as it takes on the story of 40-year-old *Liza* (*Sutton Foster*) who can't get hired in the competitive world of publishing—until someone mistakes her for a 26-year-old. She then decides to shave some years off and pretend she's a 20-something. #HijinksEnsue. Actresses have long complained that it's harder to get work in Hollywood after a certain age. *Miriam Shor*, who plays the horrible boss on the sitcom, has seen it firsthand. "I was playing people in their 40s when I was in my 20s," said Shor, whose resume includes playing Hedwig's bearded husband Yitzhak in "Hedwig and the Angry Inch." "I'm told I can't play someone 3 years younger than me, but I can play someone with a penis?" Shor doesn't think it's just Hollywood that has this obsession with youth, and for that reason, she said it's nice to be on a comedy that will make you laugh but also challenge you to think about deeper issues. In the series (debuts with back-to-back eps Tues at 10pm and 10:30pm), Shor is *Diana Trout*—evil boss to Liza. It's a wicked role that she relishes and is likely to remind folks of *Meryl Streep* in "Devil Wears Prada." Does that bother her? "If anyone wants to compare me to Meryl Streep, I'll take that comparison," she laughed. "She was able to really finesse that character that you love to hate. I hope I get to do that... There's something going on there with someone who acts like that. So deeply insecure, yet in power." *Younger*, from "Sex and the City" creator *Darren Star*, is a fun romp that also welcomes back a grown-up *Hilary Duff* (best known for **Disney's** "Lizzie McGuire" in her teen days) and pairs Foster with BFF *Maggie* ("Entourage's" *Debi Mazar*). It's also an example of preview experimentation, with TV Land making the first ep available in full on TVLand.com, **Hulu**, **iTunes** and **Amazon Instant Video** for the month of March. - *Amy Maclean*

Reviews: "The Red Road," Season 2 premiere, Thurs, 10pm, **Sundance**. Sometimes an actor so captivates in a role that he becomes a fixation. *Jason Momoa* in "TRR" is such an actor. Ruggedly handsome with a devious smile, the 6'4" Hawaiian seems born to play *Philip*, a Lanape tribesman whose good heart contrasts with his dangerous tendencies. Philip is just one of many complicated characters living in Walpole, whose bucolic scenery is pierced by antagonism between Native Americans and townspeople. -- "Safe Haven: Gun-Free Zones in America," Wed, 4:30pm, **Outdoor**. Anti-gun critics will attack *Outdoor's* 1st doc as weighted toward arming citizens, trained teachers and resource officers to stem violence and hasten response in gun-free zones, particularly schools. A fair criticism. Still, the hour-long piece presents cogent arguments against such proposals, too. -- "Finding Carter," Season 2 premiere, Tues, 10pm, **MTV**. Scoff at the concept of MTV doing serious TV, yet this series deftly mixes over-the-top plots with a dramatic tone. "Carter's" plots and cast resonated with its teen demo and your far-from-young reviewer. Abducted as a child, the now-teen Carter (*Kathryn Prescott*) falls in love this season. Ahhh -- **Notable:** There's no irony that **EPIX's** concert series' tagline is 'We Get Big Music.' *Katy Perry*, whose Prismatic World Tour is the subject of Sat's concert film (8p), does nothing small. - *Seth Arenstein*

Basic Cable Rankings (3/16/15-3/22/15)			
Mon-Sun Prime			
1	TNT	1.0	2341
2	TBSC	0.9	2252
3	FOXN	0.8	1850
4	USA	0.7	1796
4	AMC	0.7	1790
6	HGTV	0.6	1527
6	DSNY	0.6	1483
6	HIST	0.6	1407
9	TRU	0.5	1201
9	DSE	0.5	115
9	DFAM	0.5	95
12	ADSM	0.4	1107
12	DISC	0.4	1009
12	A&E	0.4	952
12	FOOD	0.4	952
12	LIFE	0.4	929
12	FAM	0.4	916
12	ID	0.4	877
12	SYFY	0.4	871
12	FX	0.4	865
12	TLC	0.4	864
22	NAN	0.3	843
22	SPK	0.3	813
22	BRAV	0.3	795
22	ESPN	0.3	773
22	TVLD	0.3	728
22	HALL	0.3	683
22	APL	0.3	675
22	DSJR	0.3	626
22	OWN	0.3	549
31	CMDY	0.2	565
31	NGC	0.2	549
31	BET	0.2	529
31	VH1	0.2	523
31	MSNB	0.2	512
31	LMN	0.2	499
31	MTV	0.2	481
31	EN	0.2	471
31	WETV	0.2	462
31	GSN	0.2	459
31	FXX	0.2	457
31	CNN	0.2	444
31	TRAV	0.2	428
31	DXD	0.2	407
31	NKJR	0.2	380
31	INSP	0.2	378

*Nielsen data supplied by ABC/Disney

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