

# Cablefax Daily™

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What the Industry Reads First

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## Last Vote: CPUC Approves Charter Deal Paving Way for Merger

A last-minute attempt from *Byron Allen's Entertainment Studios* to put the brakes on the **CA PUC** approving Charter taking franchise control of **Time Warner Cable** and **Bright House** was unsuccessful Thurs with the commission unanimously approving the transactions. It looks like Charter plans for the deal to close next week. "We are pleased to have now obtained all approvals. We look forward to closing these transactions next week and to begin delivering the many benefits of these transactions to consumers," Charter CEO *Tom Rutledge* said after the vote. The PUC opened the floor to public comment before the vote Thurs, with about 18 people speaking out in support of the merger. Among those lauding the deal was a representative for **Equality CA**, an LGBT organization, a **CA Emerging Technology Fund** member and the **NAACP CA** pres, with all speaking highly of low-income broadband initiatives that are among Charter's conditions. *Frank Washington*, CEO of **Crossings TV**, an Asian-focused, multicultural broadcaster, also gave the deal a thumbs up. "Our network serves the largest Asian community in the country," he said, declaring that after extended conversations with Charter he feels confident in the company's approach to diversity. About a half dozen people asked the PUC to deny the merger, citing Entertainment Studios' \$10bln lawsuit against Charter alleging racial discrimination and a lack of African Americans on its board or executive team. A rep from the **National Diversity Coalition** said she was impressed there were a lot more supporters than opposition, and gave Charter credit for creating a supplier council to encourage diversity. "You can't look back, but have to look forward," she said. Entertainment Studios and **The Natl Assn of African American-Owned Media** filed with the state PUC on May 2 for party status—a move opposed by Charter given the lateness of the request and that their comments were focused on the video programming market, which it said is outside the PUC's jurisdiction. The ALJ granted party status but did not amend his April proposed decision approving the deal. Commission *Catherine Sandoval* took a moment to encourage interested parties to join earlier in a proceeding. The PUC's vote approved ALJ *Karl Bemserfer's* 74-page opinion and its conditions. Conditions imposed by the state regulatory commission include Charter abiding by the FCC's Open Internet requirements for 3 years, regardless of ongoing litigation surrounding the rules. Charter also has agreed to create a chief diversity offer, improve supplier diversity and work to expand minority programming, according to CPUC pres *Michael Picker*.

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**Investor Conference:** AT&T's technology plan will continue to be driven by its **DirecTV** assets, according to *Scott Mair*, svp of technology planning and engineering. The telco is expanding its fiber footprint to support small cells, which is driven by the growing use of mobile data and the company's plan to launch DirecTV Now in 4Q, a streaming service offering live and on-demand programming, Mair said during the **Jefferies** 2016 Technology Conference Thurs. Looking at how video is being delivered today, "there will be and more and more apps and video player type of capabilities that will be integrated to TV sets" and other home devices, Mair said. He envisions more and more "software-driven" video services moving forward. While acknowledging that WiFi is a key part of connectivity today, Mair believes the technology isn't a substitute for cellular network due to its limitations in handoff. Meanwhile, like **Verizon**, AT&T is getting ready for 5G deployments. Mair expects the 1st phase of 5G standards to be completed in Sept, 2018, with the 1st use case being "enhanced wireless for both fixed and mobile." Other specifications supporting additional use cases such as Internet of Things and vehicle-to-vehicle communications are expected, he said. **CableLabs** is working with **NYU Wireless** to look at opportunities for cable as the wireless industry moves to 5G. -- As for industry consolidation, **Arris** chmn/CEO *Bob Stanzione* at the conference predicted "the environment will calm down a bit in the second half of the year." Revenue drivers for Arris include the anticipated deployment of DOCSIS 3.1 and an acceleration towards all-IP networks, he noted.

**Hill Letter on Set-top:** Congressional Privacy Caucus leaders *Joe Barton* (R-TX) and *Diana DeGette* (D-CO) are worried potential privacy issues with the **FCC's** set-top proposal could hurt consumers. In a letter to chmn *Tom Wheeler* Wed, the pair said they are concerned that "existing privacy protections enjoyed by cable and satellite subscribers will not be retained" if the FCC moves forward with its plan. The proposal would require MVPDs to make video programming data available to third parties. The data privacy rules applied to MVPDs won't apply to third party vendors if they are edge providers. The lawmakers, both members of the **House Communications Submte**, said that means consumers wouldn't be protected if third party vendors violate privacy rules. The agency is still seeking input on the proposal.

**NFL/YouTube:** **NFL** and **Google's YouTube** reached a multi-year renewal in which NFL will expand content on its YouTube channel, which launched in 2015. NFL will make some of the most memorable games available on its YouTube channel prior to the start of the 2016 season, and more NFL content—including game highlights uploaded to YouTube while games are in progress—will be available through Google Search, which will display official NFL video, along with related news and info at the top of search results.

**Evolution Digital/Rovi:** **Evolution Digital** upgraded its eBox IP hybrid set-top box with the new eGuide interactive guide supported by **Rovi's** Fan TV platform. The upgraded eBox can be configured to support an all-IP platform, including live linear channels, IP VOD programs, network DVR content and OTT programming. Evolution Digital said future upgrades will include adding popular 3rd party apps and enabling universal search. In addition, eGUIDE will integrate additional features from the Fan TV platform, including 360 Discovery, which combines show recommendations, critic reviews, relational metadata and actor photos and biographies. Evolution Digital also plans to incorporate catch-up TV, caller ID features and the Fan TV Conversational Interface into eGuide enabling users to use voice control.

**A+E Nets Full Service Agency:** **A+E Networks** announced **45th & Dean**, a multiplatform storytelling hub and social media agency. **FYI** evp, gm *Paul Greenberg* adds responsibility for the venture to his duties. Greenberg, who reports to A+E Nets pres, intl and digital media *Sean Cohan*, will oversee the group responsible for short and mid-form storytelling, the social media group, and a new Brooklyn-based facility which opens in the fall. *Shannon King*, previously of **Levo League**, joins Greenberg's team as svp, content partnership and social media. And *Todd Pellegrino*, previously a partner at **New Wave Ent's** NY division, comes aboard as svp, video content.

**Viacom Lab:** **Viacom** said its Viacom Lab is working on the 1st slate of projects with partners to drive fan engagement. The unit, headed by *Ross Martin*, evp of marketing strategy & engagement, and *Kern Schireson*, evp of data strategy and consumer intelligence, was created to beef up cross-platform content and storytelling and to establish more external partnerships. *Susan Claxton* is the lab's exec producer.

**More Adult Swim:** **Adult Swim** announced it's offering two slates of original programming across linear TV and online. The network will now stream live programming on AdultSwim.com all day (free to all). It's on-air programming will continue to air at 8pm on **Cartoon Net**. The net said it's experienced double-digit growth across multiple platforms and mobile gaming,

# BUSINESS & FINANCE

and a 97% increase in web and app usage. The site has 2 million registered users who can interact with show hosts through a live chat feature.

**Telemundo Upfront: NBCU Telemundo Enterprises** announced a series of digital initiatives at its NYC upfront Thurs. Its **El Pulso** network, launched in 2014 to provide Hispanics with news and information on technology, will partner with **Mashable** to do a weekly **Facebook Live** show hosted by social influencer *Christian Acosta* and covering tech talk on social among Latinos. It's co-creating a food-centric digital and social experience called "Deli" with video network **Tastemade**, featuring its most popular recipes and series in both English and Spanish. Regarding its partnership with **Vox-owned SB Nation** targeting millennial Hispanics, the company revealed the early editorial content will focus on Russia 2018, FIFA World Cup Qualifiers, upcoming Liga MX and **NFL** seasons and UFC Fight night. Telemundo will partner with **Buzzfeed** on the short-form series "Much Ado About Nada," an English-language telenovela for digitally-savvy millennials. The company's Multiplatform studio **Fluency Productions** will produce two multiplatform feature films airing in 2017. "Fat Camp" follows a fitness enthusiast as he teams up with a group of misfits at a fat camp, and the second is **Wise Entertainment's** first full-length feature film.

## Cablefax Daily Stockwatch

Company	05/12 Close	1-Day Ch	Company	05/12 Close	1-Day Ch			
<b>BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDs</b>								
DISH:	45.43	(2.03)	GOOGLE:	713.31	(1.98)			
ENTRAVISION:	7.27	(0.11)	HARMONIC:	3.07	(0.04)			
GRAY TELEVISION:	11.36	(0.77)	INTEL:	29.76	(0.3)			
MEDIA GENERAL:	17.28	(0.27)	INTERACTIVE CORP:	54.40	(0.64)			
NEXSTAR:	50.76	(2.04)	LEVEL 3:	52.48	(0.25)			
SINCLAIR:	31.07	(1.63)	MICROSOFT:	51.51	0.46			
TEGNA:	22.61	(0.49)	NETFLIX:	87.74	(2.28)			
<b>MSOS</b>								
CABLE ONE:	498.40	10.43	NIELSEN:	52.30	0.26			
CABLEVISION:	34.56	(0.05)	SEACHANGE:	3.37	(0.07)			
CHARTER:	213.96	(3.26)	SONY:	25.84	1.28			
COMCAST:	62.26	0.19	SPRINT NEXTEL:	3.49	UNCH			
GCI:	17.34	0.02	SYNACOR:	3.26	(0.17)			
LIBERTY BROADBAND:	58.84	(0.93)	TIVO:	9.86	0.04			
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	37.08	(0.11)	UNIVERSAL ELEC:	63.62	0.75			
SHAW COMM:	19.10	0.38	VONAGE:	3.90	(0.04)			
SHENTEL:	30.71	0.44	YAHOO:	37.03	(0.34)			
TIME WARNER CABLE:	215.28	(1.31)	<b>TELCOS</b>					
<b>PROGRAMMING</b>								
21ST CENTURY FOX:	29.08	(0.33)	AT&T:	39.55	0.37			
AMC NETWORKS:	68.18	(0.76)	CENTURYLINK:	28.46	0.15			
CBS:	54.28	(1.52)	FRONTIER:	5.33	(0.07)			
DISCOVERY:	28.14	(0.83)	TDS:	28.13	0.28			
DISNEY:	101.71	(0.58)	VERIZON:	51.47	0.32			
GRUPO TELEVISIA:	26.50	(0.36)	<b>MARKET INDICES</b>					
HSN:	48.98	0.31	DOW:	17720.50	9.38			
LIONSGATE:	20.49	(0.32)	NASDAQ:	4737.33	(23.35)			
MSG NETWORKS:	16.68	(0.17)	S&P 500:	2064.11	(0.35)			
SCRIPPS INT:	64.81	(1.44)	<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>					
STARZ:	26.83	(0.65)	ADDVANTAGE:	1.70	(0.05)			
TIME WARNER:	73.39	(0.75)	AMDOCS:	57.93	0.64			
VIACOM:	43.01	(0.75)	AMPHENOL:	55.80	(0.37)			
WWE:	17.79	(0.29)	APPLE:	90.32	(2.19)			
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>								
ARRIS GROUP:	22.81	(0.46)	ARRIS GROUP:	22.81	(0.46)			
AVID TECH:	5.52	(0.2)	AVID TECH:	5.52	(0.2)			
BLNDER TONGUE:	0.41	UNCH	BLNDER TONGUE:	0.41	UNCH			
CISCO:	26.67	(0.03)	CISCO:	26.67	(0.03)			
COMMSCOPE:	29.77	(0.09)	COMMSCOPE:	29.77	(0.09)			
CONCURRENT:	6.22	(0.04)	CONCURRENT:	6.22	(0.04)			
CONVERGYS:	27.94	0.13	CONVERGYS:	27.94	0.13			
CSG SYSTEMS:	42.06	(0.05)	CSG SYSTEMS:	42.06	(0.05)			
ECHOSTAR:	41.10	(0.65)	ECHOSTAR:	41.10	(0.65)			



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# PROGRAMMER'S PAGE

## Sin City Law

Combining the suspense of “CSI” and “Law & Order” and the tell-all appeal of “American Crime Story,” **ID** followed the Clark County District Attorney’s office as they tackle crimes on and off the Strip. “Las Vegas Law” premieres Thurs at 10pm. The trial prep, investigation work and actual court days were all documented in real time, with multiple cases unfolding concurrently. Following these cases as they developed, the goal is not to shape them for the benefit of television and “whenever permitted, we tell both sides of the story,” *Greg Klein*, co-exec producer with **MY Entertainment** told us. One way to accomplish that was by using 2 cameras as much as possible to capture the reactions of both parties as key moments unfolded, he said. The production team also aimed to be as unobtrusive as possible so that the Das and other key players could focus on their work without the film crew hindering the legal process. “Before we began shooting Las Vegas Law, we worked very hard to gain everyone’s trust... the trust of the prosecutors, the victims, the families, the defense attorneys, the judges, everyone,” Klein said. There’s a growing appetite for programming featuring exclusive access to actual legal cases as they develop behind closed doors and inside the courtroom, said *Jeanie Vink*, sr exec producer with **ID**. “We’ve seen this interest grow even more with the success of scripted legal dramas like ‘American Crime Story: The People v. O.J. Simpson,’ except Las Vegas Law documents current criminal cases as they unfold,” she said. And the true-crime stories featured on Las Vegas Law and other crime series on **ID** are “all stories of human nature that **ID** viewers feel like they can learn from,” said Vink. Las Vegas Law reflects “one critical aspect of **ID**’s programming, and that is to shed light on areas of the American justice system that are rarely seen by the public,” she said. From homicide, sexual assault, to kidnapping and battery, whatever crime happens under the bright lights of Vegas, stays in Vegas, and in particular, in the hands of the **DAs**. – *Joyce Wang*

**Reviews:** “Banshee,” Fri, 10pm, **Cinemax**. Unless you’ve got time to binge in the coming week, you’ll need to catch up on “Banshee” gradually. Yet, if you like action-packed television with a high-degree of violence, gang warfare, forbidden sex and some of the creepiest characters ever put on screen, then you’ll be bingeing on Banshee pretty quickly. The series ends after four seasons two weeks from now, its creators say, because they’ve finished telling the story of an ex-con (played with macho to spare by square-jawed New Zealander *Antony Starr*) who impersonates a sheriff in the small Amish town of Banshee, PA. We’ll miss it. -- “Match Made in Heaven,” premiere, Thurs, 10pm, **WE tv**. You know, 18 gorgeous hopefuls live in a mansion and try to lure handsome *Stevie Baggs* into a match. Wrinkle: Baggs’s mother goes undercover to get an unvarnished look at the bachelorettes. -- **Notable:** It’s easy to find Emmy series to binge, but still it’s nice when a cable net does the work for viewers. Saturday **TV One** does the honors with “Empire” (9am ET), showing 17 eps as the series heads into its finale next week on broadcaster **Fox**. Also Sat, in honor of Food Revolution Day, **Pivot** begins a marathon (4pm ET) of “Jamie Oliver’s Food Revolution.” – *Seth Arenstein*

Basic Cable Rankings			
(5/02/16-5/08/16)			
Mon-Sun Prime			
1	TNT	1.1	2688
2	FOXN	1.0	2298
3	ESPN	0.7	1644
4	USA	0.6	1488
4	HGTV	0.6	1407
6	HIST	0.5	1219
6	TBSC	0.5	1185
6	FX	0.5	1175
6	DISC	0.5	1139
6	NBCS	0.5	970
6	DSE	0.5	107
12	DSNY	0.4	1074
12	CNN	0.4	1044
12	ADSM	0.4	932
12	MSNB	0.4	923
12	FOOD	0.4	910
12	AMC	0.4	863
12	ID	0.4	828
19	TLC	0.3	791
19	NAN	0.3	742
19	LIFE	0.3	704
19	A&E	0.3	701
19	VH1	0.3	688
19	HALL	0.3	666
19	FS1	0.3	646
19	LMN	0.3	635
19	DSJR	0.3	626
19	BRAV	0.3	623
19	SPK	0.3	604
19	APL	0.3	600
19	NGC	0.3	570
19	NKJR	0.3	505
19	DFAM	0.3	50
34	FRFM	0.2	574
34	EN	0.2	517
34	SYFY	0.2	515
34	TVLD	0.2	515
34	GSN	0.2	459
34	CMDY	0.2	455
34	MTV	0.2	448
34	OWN	0.2	431
34	WETV	0.2	429
34	TRAV	0.2	392
34	INSP	0.2	379

\*Nielsen data, supplied by ABC/Disney, is based on coverage area of individual networks

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