

Cablefax Daily™

Friday — July 15, 2016

What the Industry Reads First

Volume 27 / No. 135

FCC Frontier: 5G Gets Voted Up, While Wheeler Shoots Down Retrans

It was a wild day at the FCC Thurs. At the same time the Commission was voting to adopt new rules that open up spectrum for 5G wireless and fixed broadband, a blog post from chmn *Tom Wheeler* appeared on FCC.gov declaring that the agency would not move forward with any reform to retrans consent rules. Given the number of FCC-dealt losses for cable as of late, it hardly seems surprising, but that doesn't mean it didn't smart. Adding to the chaotic atmosphere of Thurs' open meeting were some members of the public who interrupted an FCC press conference with concerns about radiation and 5G. Just another day on 12th St... First, let's look at what Wheeler decided on retrans. Per Congress, the agency had to conduct a rulemaking to consider possible revisions to what constitutes good faith negotiations in retrans. "Based on the staff's careful review of the record, it is clear that more rules in this area are not what we need at this point," said Wheeler's blog. "There is nothing in the record that suggests that our current totality of the circumstances test, which is intentionally broad, is inadequate to address the negotiating practices of broadcast stations or MVPDs in the marketplace today." When the Commission's Republican commissioners were asked about it after Thurs' meeting, both deferred, saying it had just come out. The FCC chmn stressed that the Commission would not turn a blind eye to disputes, citing how in the ongoing **DISH** and **Tribune** spat, he summoned reps from both sides to negotiate in coordination with FCC staff: "When that step failed to produce an agreement or an extension, the Media Bureau issued comprehensive information requests to both parties to enable FCC staff to determine whether they were meeting their duty to negotiate in good faith; we are reviewing their responses as I write. If that review reveals a dereliction of duty on the part of one or both parties, I will not hesitate to recommend appropriate Commission action." Wheeler scored more admiration from the industry for Thurs' 5G/ "Spectrum Frontiers" item, which was approved in a 5-0 vote. It opens up nearly 11 GHz of high-frequency spectrum for flexible, mobile and fixed use wireless broadband and seeks comment on opening 18 GHz of spectrum encompassing 8 additional high-frequency bands. The FCC adopted a flexible use plan that includes licensing, shared access and unlicensed bands. "The United States becomes the 1st country in the world to identify and open up vast amounts of high frequency spectrum for 5G networks and applications. This is the most significant step yet to enable high-speed, high capacity, low latency wireless networks that

100
Cablefax
VIDEO SERIES

SPONSORED BY: **CSG**
INTERNATIONAL

Watch this week's
featured interview with
CSG International
President **Kent Steffen.**



Who Are The Most Influential Minorities and Powerful Women?

Nomination Deadline: **July 15** | **Free to Enter**

Cablefax is accepting nominations for the Most Powerful Women & Most Influential Minorities in Cable Programs that will be featured in *Cablefax: The Magazine*. It's free to enter, but you must submit your nominations by July 15!



The Most Influential Minorities in Cable

Nomination Deadline: **July 15**

Publication Date: **September 2016**



The Most Powerful Women in Cable

Nomination Deadline: **July 15**

Publication Date: **November 2016**

Event: **November 17**

Sponsorship Opportunities:

Rich Hauptner at rhauptner@accessintel.com or
Olivia Murray at omurray@accessintel.com with any questions.

Enter online at www.cablefax.com/2016-nominations.

CABLEFAX DAILY (ISSN 1069-6644) is published daily by Access Intelligence, LLC ● www.cablefax.com ● 301.354.2101 ● Editorial Director: Amy Maclean, 301.354.1760, amaclean@accessintel.com ● Publisher: Michael Grebb, 323.380.6263, mgrebb@accessintel.com ● Sr. Editor: Joyce Wang, 301.354.1828, jwang@accessintel.com ● Cablefax/Screenster Editor: Kaylee Hultgren, 646.764.8267, khultgren@accessintel.com ● Advisor: Seth Arenstein ● Dir. of Business Dev.: Rich Hauptner, 203.899.8460, rhauptner@accessintel.com ● 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: \$1,699.97/year ● Access Intelligence, LLC, 9211 Corporate Blvd., 4th Floor, Rockville, MD 20850

will improve our lives...” Wheeler said. **NCTA** applauded the move, saying: “This spectrum is especially critical for future applications and services that have not yet been developed. Actions like today’s will help propel America’s leadership in next-generation wireless technologies.” As for those folks concerned about radiation, they weren’t allowed to ask any questions at the news conference. One reporter complained that security intervened when he was talking to one of them about radiation concerns and his FCC press credentials were confiscated. “Everybody has a right to come here, and everybody has the right to behave responsibly. And there are people who are charged with making judgments about that,” Wheeler said, adding that he’s sure he’ll get his credentials back if they were mistakenly taken.

More from FCC: Reporters during a press conference Thurs tried to pen **FCC** chmn *Tom Wheeler* down on his feelings about cable’s app-based alternative to his set-top plan, but couldn’t get him to say more than he is happy everyone is talking. The chairman said his previous attempts to get players to sit down and talk about details were “met with a stiff arm.” Wheeler was just as evasive on whether he plans to step down from the FCC any time soon. “I intend to work with the new administration on how do you have an appropriate next step at this agency... The responsible thing here is to say there is a new administration coming in and how do you work with them to facilitate a logical transition?” he said. Does that mean he would stay if asked? “I have not been.” He did reiterate his wish for Dem *Jessica Rosenworcel* to be re-confirmed as a commissioner. As for pushback from members of Congress on the set-top plan and broadband privacy proposal, he said it’s all part of the process. “This is point-counterpoint, how do we make things better... The heat is good, and it’s not pouring water on things.”

Retrans Reax: **ACA** and the **American TV Alliance** are among those taking the **FCC’s** lack of action on retrans the hardest. But they aren’t giving up hope for reform. “The Chairman himself has acknowledged that his announcement is not an official FCC action and merely reflects his personal belief about the issue ‘at this time,’” said ATVA, whose members include **DISH**, **Charter** and **Verizon**. “We think the FCC will come to realize the error of this belief—especially if, as we fear, broadcasters continue to abuse the viewing public in the coming months.” ACA pres/CEO *Matt Polka* took the news as a sign that negotiating tactics will most likely escalate and result in “consumer harm on a colossal scale.” In a statement describing ACA as “shocked and appalled” by the inaction, Polka said “that the Chairman saw absolutely no reason to address what Congress had clearly seen as an issue that bore deep inspection and updating leaves me at a complete loss.”

Emmy Rundown: The **Emmy** nominations were kind to **FX**, with its 56 nods the most of any net after Emmy king **HBO** (94 nominations, down from last year’s 126). It’s a nice increase from last year’s 38 nominations, and it represents a basic cable record, surpassing the previous record of 45 that **FX** set in 2014. **Netflix** also was treated well with its 54 nods making it the 3rd most nominated platform overall. **HBO’s** “Game of Thrones” again scored the most nominations (23), followed by **FX’s** “People vs OJ Simpson” (22) and “Fargo” (18). **AMC** had the 3rd most nominations among cable networks at 24, followed by 22 at **Showtime** and 17 at **Comedy Central**. **NBC** had the most among the Big 4 broadcast nets with 41, while **ABC** and **CBS** each received 35. **Fox** had 29 noms. New to the Outstanding Drama category for 2016 is **USA’s** “Mr Robot” and **FX’s** “The Americans.” Also in the running are **GoT**, **Netflix’s** “House of Cards,” **Showtime’s** “Homeland,” **AMC’s** “Better Call Saul” and **PBS’** “Downton Abbey.” Meanwhile, online platforms continue to attract nods from The Television Academy. Last year **Netflix** had 34 nominations and 4 wins, compared to this year’s 54. **Amazon Instant Video** increased from 12 noms (with 5 wins) to 16 nods this year. In total, the number of different online platforms recognized increased to 15 compared to last year’s 7. New digital outlets include **ActingDead.com**, **AOL.com**, **Arts.gov**, **BET.com**, **Crackle**, **Hulu**, **Time.com** and **Vimeo.com**. The Television Academy fully transitioned to an online voting system last year, and reported that it saw a 22% increase in participation for this year’s nomination round.

Voice Remote: **DISH** has made available to customers for \$30 a new voice remote that can navigate its Hopper 3 and the 4K Joey set-top box. It’s half the size of a traditional remote and features voice search and command, a clickable touchpad with backlighting that can be used for swipe and scroll navigation. It also serves as a universal remote for up to two infrared devices. More details on **Cablefax.com**.

Comcast Spending: **Comcast Business** will invest nearly \$100mln in network expansion projects in Chicago and its suburbs over the next 3 years. It is the largest single concentrated fiber expansion Comcast has ever undertaken in the Chicago region.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Pac-12 News: Frontier Comm will launch **Pac-12 Net** in HD to subs in Southern CA by Sept 1, in time for the 2016 football season. The former **Verizon FiOS** customers are getting what other Frontier subs have long received, with Frontier already distributing Pac-12 to customers OR and WA. Separately, Pac 12 Nets announced that **Twitter** will be its streaming partner for "Pac-12 Plus," a broadband network of live events produced by the conference's 12 universities.

Kaitz Dinner: A+E Nets and the **Natl Assn of Latino Independent Producers** will be feted at the **Walter Kaitz Foundation's** annual fundraising dinner, Sept 21 in NYC. A+E Networks will be honored as the Diversity Champion while NALIP will receive the Diversity Advocate award. This year's dinner co-chairs are **Turner** chmn/CEO *John Martin* and **Charter** chmn/CEO *Tom Rutledge*.

People: **EPIX** tapped *Jonathan Dakss*, previously vp of **NBCU's** Media Labs, as chief digital officer. -- *Brad Swanson*, formerly exec dir of the **FL Transportation Commission**, has accepted the post of president of the **Florida Cable Telecommunications Assn**.

Time's Running Out: Friday (July 15) is the deadline to submit those nominations for **Cablefax: The Magazine's** Most Influential Minorities and Most Powerful Women issues. It's free to enter! Visit Cablefax.com and click on Awards.

Cablefax Daily Stockwatch

Company	07/14 Close	1-Day Ch	Company	07/14 Close	1-Day Ch
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS			INTEL: 35.20 0.19		
DISH:	52.91	0.38	INTERACTIVE CORP:	59.12	(0.06)
ENTRAVISION:	7.28	(0.04)	LEVEL 3:	56.55	0.25
GRAY TELEVISION:	11.53	0.19	MICROSOFT:	53.74	0.23
MEDIA GENERAL:	17.89	0.17	NETFLIX:	98.02	1.59
NEXSTAR:	54.25	1.24	NIELSEN:	54.03	0.26
SINCLAIR:	30.93	0.41	SEACHANGE:	3.28	(0.07)
TEGNA:	24.40	0.25	SONY:	30.04	0.49
MSOS			SPRINT NEXTEL:	5.01	0.12
CABLE ONE:	533.82	1.76	SYNACOR:	3.09	(0.09)
CHARTER:	239.11	1.68	TIVO:	10.31	UNCH
COMCAST:	67.02	0.19	UNIVERSAL ELEC:	72.70	(0.89)
GCI:	16.56	(0.4)	VONAGE:	5.91	(0.12)
LIBERTY BROADBAND:	62.27	0.43	YAHOO:	37.96	0.32
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	31.61	1.06	TELCOS		
SHAW COMM:	19.49	0.14	AT&T:	42.77	0.18
SHENTEL:	41.23	(0.64)	CENTURYLINK:	31.30	0.42
PROGRAMMING			FRONTIER:	5.11	0.05
21ST CENTURY FOX:	28.12	0.20	TDS:	31.54	0.29
AMC NETWORKS:	59.07	0.35	VERIZON:	55.84	(0.16)
CBS:	57.94	0.43	MARKET INDICES		
DISCOVERY:	25.70	0.21	DOW:	18506.41	134.29
DISNEY:	99.97	0.09	NASDAQ:	5034.06	28.33
GRUPO TELEVISA:	26.93	0.29	S&P 500:	2163.75	11.32
HSN:	51.69	0.41			
LIONSGATE:	20.06	0.24			
MSG NETWORKS:	16.29	(0.06)			
SCRIPPS INT:	66.75	0.67			
STARZ:	30.01	0.14			
TIME WARNER:	78.59	0.54			
VIACOM:	49.26	0.03			
WWE:	20.00	(0.08)			
TECHNOLOGY					
ADDVANTAGE:	1.88	0.05			
AMDOCS:	58.08	(0.09)			
AMPHENOL:	58.40	0.40			
APPLE:	98.79	1.92			
ARRIS GROUP:	24.64	0.22			
AVID TECH:	6.61	0.02			
BLNDER TONGUE:	0.45	(0.03)			
CISCO:	29.76	0.01			
COMMSCOPE:	32.09	0.34			
CONCURRENT:	5.53	0.27			
CONVERGYS:	26.65	0.07			
CSG SYSTEMS:	41.68	(0.16)			
ECHOSTAR:	39.20	(0.08)			
GOOGLE:	720.95	3.97			
HARMONIC:	3.11	(0.02)			



NETWORKING ACCESS MENTORING INVOLVEMENT COMMUNITY



Embrace Diversity.
Embrace Success.

namic.com

PROGRAMMER'S PAGE

Outlandish Results...

The **Emmy** announcements always provoke great elation and pride among those who receive the nod. For those who receive the inevitable “snub,” it’s a less joyous occasion. A snub of sorts among Thurs’ finalist announcements was **Starz’s** “Outlander,” which aside from a couple nods for costume and production design received no other love. That’s a shame. In many ways, Outlander is the poorer and more neglected cousin of **HBO’s** “Game of Thrones,” whose massive budget and endless press attention seems to know no bounds. Don’t get me wrong: Game of Thrones is one of the best shows on TV, and the last two episodes of this season were perhaps the best in the series’ history. However, Outlander does something quite unique, and that’s to tell an epic and violent historical tale from a decidedly female perspective. Sure, GoT has its share of strong women from the good-natured Daenerys Targaryen to the evil Cersei Lannister. Hell, even Sansa Stark kicked some ass this season. But Outlander goes full throttle with a singular female protagonist (*Caitriona Balfe* as Claire Fraser) who finds herself surrounded by brutish men—and often using her own skills, guile and charm to stave off disaster. Watching her navigate a man’s world in 18th century Scotland is for female viewers inspiring and for male viewers a study in empathy for what women have endured throughout history and still largely put up with today. Interestingly, the show’s take on male characters is equally refreshing. While most male-driven shows treat men as indestructible gluttons for punishment, not Outlander. When Claire’s husband Jaime (*Sam Heughan*) is violently and repeatedly raped, it’s treated as an event just as traumatic as it would be for a woman, including the emotional aftermath. In many ways, Outlander takes more risks than nearly any other show, so it’s truly unfortunate that the Academy didn’t see fit to recognize that bravery. There’s always next year. — *Michael Grebb*

Reviews: “Hello, World! (*Ellie Goulding, Crazy Love*),” Saturday, 8:30pm, **Discovery**; “The Hunt” (ep 3, Hide & Seek Jungles), Sunday, 9pm, **BBC America**. Loyal readers of this column know it’s among the first to blast networks for grabbing ratings with celebs to attract viewers to programs about less-popular topics. Discovery’s done that here, mixing pop musicians with short, nature docs. Yet this ep with singer/songwriter Ellie Goulding succeeds. The light-hearted look at reproduction in the animal kingdom fuses Goulding’s delightful narration with one of her hits, “Something In The Way You Move,” a tune perfectly in sync with species’ mating gyrations. And don’t miss the program’s ending coda. Now to what might be summer’s best TV, “The Hunt.” This week highlights contrasts: the jungle’s largest predator, the tiger, depends on stealth and tiptoeing (the footage, no pun intended, is memorable); one of its smallest, army ants, or rather swarms of them, turn out to be its most successful hunters, trapping 30K animals/day. The Hunt’s epic camerawork (how did they get scenes of the American marten hunting mice in ice tunnels?), music and *Sir David Attenborough’s* narration delight and amaze. -- “Ballers,” season 2 premiere, Sunday, 10pm, **HBO**. Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson (and his suits) are fine, but this series lags when he’s off screen. A sophomore slump perhaps. — *Seth Arenstein*

Basic Cable Rankings (7/04/16-7/10/16) Mon-Sun Prime			
1	FOXN	1.1	2456
2	HGTV	0.7	1629
3	USA	0.6	1346
3	HIST	0.6	1297
5	DSNY	0.5	1297
5	TBSC	0.5	1213
7	DISC	0.4	1025
7	TNT	0.4	1005
7	FOOD	0.4	995
7	FX	0.4	960
7	ADSM	0.4	956
7	CNN	0.4	922
7	NBCS	0.4	851
7	MSNB	0.4	850
7	TLC	0.4	831
7	HALL	0.4	795
7	ID	0.4	789
7	DSE	0.4	90
19	AMC	0.3	776
19	NAN	0.3	751
19	BRAV	0.3	735
19	SYFY	0.3	696
19	SPK	0.3	695
19	APL	0.3	676
19	ESPN	0.3	670
19	A&E	0.3	660
19	NKJR	0.3	586
19	HMM	0.3	560
19	OWN	0.3	543
19	DSJR	0.3	516
31	LIFE	0.2	581
31	TVLD	0.2	512
31	FRFM	0.2	499
31	WETV	0.2	489
31	LMN	0.2	489
31	VH1	0.2	486
31	EN	0.2	461
31	GSN	0.2	457
31	MTV	0.2	447
31	FS1	0.2	446
31	NGC	0.2	446
31	FXX	0.2	445
31	INSP	0.2	443
31	TRAV	0.2	427

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

Cablefax Daily is **THE** Place to Advertise

Launching a new product? Let the industry know!

Premiering a new show? Let the industry know!

Celebrating an anniversary? Let the industry know!

Deliver your message with impact and influence the industry’s elite.

Advertise in Cablefax Daily today!

Rates & More Information: Rich Hauptner at rhauptner@accessintel.com or 203-899-8460 | Olivia Murray at omurray@accessintel.com or 301-354-2010