

Cablefax Daily™

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What the Industry Reads First

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Dear FCC: Wish Lists, Waiting and a December Meeting

President-elect *Donald Trump's* Telecom transition team is only weeks-old, but the **Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council** wasted no time letting its members (*Jeffrey Eisenach, Mark Jamison and Roslyn Layton*) know what the group feels are the biggest imperatives to closing the digital divide and advancing multicultural media and telecom ownership. MMTC sent the trio, along with FCC commissioners *Ajit Pai and Michael O'Rielly*, a list of 12 fundamentals that should be considered in the first 100 days of the new administration. Recommendations include appointing FCC leadership that integrates diversity and inclusion in the regulatory processes. The administration would re-charter the Advisory Committee for Diversity in the Digital Age, which has not been re-chartered since 2013, MMTC said. MMTC also called for a ban on redlining in broadband deployments, arguing that federal intervention is needed because municipal authorities lack the leverage to forbid the practice. Other suggestions include extending equal procurement reporting requirements for cable and satellite operators to all communications technologies, including high tech Title I information services that the FCC doesn't directly regulate, and reviewing employment of under-represented groups in the communications space. While MMTC looks ahead to the new FCC, others hope existing commissioners will tie up some loose ends. As part of the 2015 Open Internet order, smaller broadband Internet access service providers (defined as 100K or fewer connections) were given an exemption to the enhanced transparency rule until Dec 15 of 2016. The rules require providers to disclose info such a promotional rates, data caps and network performance metrics. An item currently on circulation would extend the waiver until the FCC completes a rulemaking. The item includes an NPRM that would require providers with 100K or fewer connections to comply with disclosure rules for enhanced commercial terms, but seeks comment on whether or not to require disclosure of performance characteristics or network management practices. Earlier this week, various associations, including the **Wireless Internet Service Providers Assn, Competitive Carriers Assn and ACA**, urged the FCC to consider a 250K subscriber cap for the waiver. While the waiver is in danger of expiring next week, the transparency rules won't go into effect until the Office of Management and Budget completes its review process. The groups have expressed concern that it will create confusion and uncertainty if an exemption is not in place before OMB finishes its process—adding that it could be especially burdensome when coupled with the costs for implementing the new FCC broadband privacy

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rules next year. Meanwhile, it may be a quieter FCC these days, but business still continues. The agency scheduled its Dec open meeting for next Thurs, with just 2 items on the agenda—one to improve public alert and warning systems and another addressing the transition from TTY tech to real-time text technology over wireless IP-enabled networks.

Altice IPO: **Altice** said it's exploring an IPO of a minority interest of its US operations. If the company does go public, it could be the first step to growing **Altice USA**. It now ranks as the 4th largest US cable operator with 4.6mln subs thanks to the **Suddenlink** and **Cablevision** acquisitions. *Reuters* first reported that Altice was considering an IPO back in Oct.

Copyright Overhaul: **House Judiciary Committee** leaders recommended an overhaul of the **US Copyright Office** Thurs calling for "a significant investment of funds and changes to how the Office operates." The lawmakers proposed changes to the register of copyrights and copyright office structure, the creation of an advisory committee and information technology upgrades. **MPPAA** welcomed the proposal. "A vibrant, modern copyright system depends on a vibrant, modern Copyright Office. The current structure dates back to the 19th century and, as many members of Congress as well as past Registers have stated, in the 21st century the Copyright Office needs policy and operational autonomy to meet its statutory obligations to Congress and the public," said evp of global policy and external affairs *Joanna McIntosh* in a statement.

New Form Funding: **New Form**, a next-gen digital studio created in 2014 by **Discovery Comm** and entertainment execs and operating partners *Ed Wilson, Kim Wiatt* and *Craig Jacobson*, scored \$18mln in funding from **ITV** and **Discovery**, with ITV taking a minority stake in the company. UK's ITV also inked a strategic partnership with New Form that includes a multi-year commercial deal to bring New Form properties to the ITV Hub starting in 2017. The \$18mln funding round is the largest in New Form's class and is expected to let the studio further invest in its development and production model.

SCTE Foundation: **The SCTE Foundation** launched a new campaign aimed to build a fund of at least \$10mln that will be used to sustain education, training, and diversity initiatives for the cable telecom workforce. The "#BuildingExperts" campaign is tasked with generating more than \$7mln in new donations over the next 3 years to complement more than \$2.6mln currently on hand. The goal is for investment income alone to fund grants that can improve the foundation's mission of increasing workforce skills and supporting growth of cable engineering careers. **Advance/Newhouse's Nomi Bergman** and **Cisco's Yvette Kanouff** are spearheading the campaign to secure large corporate and individual donors, while Broadband Advisors Group's *Keith Hayes* is working on grassroots contributions. Pledges made during a kickoff event at **SCTE/ISBE Cable-Tec Expo 2016** included \$50K each from **ARRIS** and **Huawei**, as well as individual pledges.

Vice Apprenticeship Program: **Vice Media** created the Vice Apprenticeship Program, which aims to employ people with criminal records at Vice. The company is teaming with the **Center for Employment Opportunities**, the nonprofit that provides career opportunities for the formerly incarcerated. Beginning in early 2017, the 6-month program will provide formerly incarcerated people who have little to no college or workforce experience with skills including production, editorial, marketing and other creative jobs, at Vice's Brooklyn headquarters, paying \$15 per hour for 40 hours per week. The apprenticeship is open to anyone on parole, or anyone between the ages of 18 and 25 on probation, based in NYC.

ACA on McMahon: **ACA** said *Linda McMahon*, co-founder and former CEO of **WWE**, is "an excellent choice to lead the SBA to help smaller companies resume their role as engines of economic growth and job creation. She's on record as opposing government mandates that burden smaller companies and understands that government should not needlessly stand in the way of small businesses' efforts. ACA looks forward to working with SBA Administrator-designate McMahon following her Senate confirmation," pres/CEO *Matt Polka* said in a statement.

Viamedia's Renewal: **Viamedia** renewed its agreement with **Service Electric Cable TV & Communications** to represent local cable TV advertising sales throughout the greater Philly market. Service Electric Cable TV is the nation's first cable TV company and is a 3rd generation family run business.

ABC Update: Ad exec *Geri Wang* at **ABC** retires in March, ending a 27-year career at the net that saw her ascend to pres, ABC Sales. Said *Ben Sherwood*, co-chairman, **Disney Media Networks** and pres, **Disney/ABC Television Group**: "While we all understand and respect Geri's decision, she will be greatly missed—both inside Disney/ABC and around the globe with our many clients. Geri is a force of nature—one of the best and brightest in our business. Relentless in her commitment to ABC, formidable at the negotiating table and a fierce advocate for all clients, she has raised the standards of

BUSINESS & FINANCE

everyone who works with her.”

Programming: Discovery Channel’s “Alaskan Bush People” returns on Jan 4 as the Brown family gets back to their bush-people roots once and for all. -- **DIY** premieres “Holmes & Holmes” on Jan 3. The 6-ep series follows professional contractor Mike Holmes as he teams up with his son to transform the 20-something’s bachelor pad into a proper home.

People: Verizon hired former **Maker Studios** exec *Erin McPherson* as head of content, strategy, acquisition and programming. She will report to *Brian Angiolet*, svp of consumer products and new business development. Former vp of content strategy and acquisition *Terry Denson* left the company earlier this year. -- **Scripps Networks Interactive** upped *Cindy Brown* to svp, program planning and scheduling. She’ll still report to *Julie Taylor*, svp, program planning, strategy and scheduling. -- **Cartoon Network** upped development execs *Curtis Lelash* and *Tramm Wigzell* to svps, original series. They continue to report to *Rob Sorcher*, chief content officer.

Editor’s Note: Join us next week to celebrate our Overachievers Under 30 at an open-bar reception from 4-6pm Wed, Dec 14 at The Standard High Line in NYC. Great views and only a few steps from the **Lustgarten Foundation’s** Holiday Rock & Roll Bash! And don’t forget: Friday (today) is the deadline for the Digital Awards. More info: www.cablefax.com

Cablefax Daily Stockwatch

Company	12/08 Close	1-Day Ch	Company	12/08 Close	1-Day Ch
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS					
DISH:	59.93	1.29	INTEL:	35.70	0.20
ENTRAVISION:	7.00	0.25	INTERACTIVE CORP:	67.86	0.39
GRAY TELEVISION:	11.25	0.35	LEVEL 3:	56.25	(0.56)
MEDIA GENERAL:	19.04	0.22	MICROSOFT:	61.01	(0.36)
NEXSTAR:	65.35	1.85	NETFLIX:	123.24	(2.15)
SINCLAIR:	34.55	1.05	NIELSEN:	41.99	(1.41)
TEGNA:	23.25	0.09	SEACHANGE:	2.63	UNCH
MSOS					
CABLE ONE:	613.65	(5.65)	SONY:	29.16	0.55
CHARTER:	279.00	(5.25)	SPRINT NEXTEL:	8.74	(0.16)
COMCAST:	69.23	(0.1)	SYNACOR:	3.15	UNCH
GCI:	18.36	0.11	UNIVERSAL ELEC:	68.40	2.30
LIBERTY BROADBAND:	71.08	(1.21)	VONAGE:	6.99	0.18
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	30.21	(0.13)	YAHOO:	41.41	0.89
SHAW COMM:	20.15	0.10	TELCOS		
SHENTEL:	29.95	1.15	AT&T:	40.41	(0.04)
PROGRAMMING					
21ST CENTURY FOX:	28.64	0.53	CENTURYLINK:	24.13	(0.15)
AMC NETWORKS:	52.27	0.65	FRONTIER:	3.70	0.10
CBS:	63.58	0.14	TDS:	29.26	0.29
DISCOVERY:	29.55	0.75	VERIZON:	51.13	(0.25)
DISNEY:	103.38	2.17	MARKET INDICES		
GRUPO TELEVISIA:	20.65	(0.05)	DOW:	19614.81	65.19
HSN:	36.80	0.95	NASDAQ:	5417.36	23.59
LIONSGATE:	26.09	1.10	S&P 500:	2246.19	4.84
MSG NETWORKS:	21.20	(0.45)			
SCRIPPS INT:	72.94	0.77			
STARZ:	35.52	0.59			
TIME WARNER:	94.55	0.57			
VIACOM:	42.60	0.45			
WWE:	19.95	0.52			
TECHNOLOGY					
ADVANTAGE:	1.69	(0.01)			
AMDOCS:	59.57	(0.1)			
AMPHENOL:	68.83	0.76			
APPLE:	112.10	1.07			
ARRIS GROUP:	30.38	0.39			
AVID TECH:	4.57	0.03			
BLNDER TONGUE:	0.49	(0.02)			
CISCO:	29.95	UNCH			
COMMSCOPE:	36.89	0.21			
CONCURRENT:	5.46	(0.03)			
CONVERGYS:	25.93	0.54			
CSG SYSTEMS:	47.88	1.04			
ECHOSTAR:	53.35	0.71			
GOOGLE:	776.42	5.23			
HARMONIC:	5.10	(0.1)			

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PROGRAMMER'S PAGE

Special Ops

Place 30 men and women with no military background through Navy Seal-type physical and mental challenges and you have the 8-ep unscripted series “The Selection: Special Operations Experiment,” (Dec 8 premiere, 10pm ET on **History**). This is no competition series: There is tear gas, interrogation simulation and psychological warfare, among other tests. “The goal was to push people to their absolute limits,” exec producer *Tim Healy* told us. Endurance events like “Tough Mudder” and “Spartan Race” are so popularly that “we felt they were tapping into the fact that deep down, people want to see what they are made of,” he said. But with these events, anybody willing to write a check for the entrance fee can participate. “We decided that we wanted to create something that would make these events pale in comparison in terms of the sheer toll it would take on the participants’ mental and physical abilities... We wanted to create something that not just anybody could sign up for and take part in,” said Healy. The primary reason for doing this with Special Operations is because when it comes to toughness and fortitude, “absolutely no one can touch them,” he said. The respective selection processes are “legendary” for what’s required from the candidates in order to successfully pass, he said. “It’s an exclusive world, and we thought the idea of giving people the opportunity to experience just a sliver of what they endure as part of their Selection process was pretty extraordinary.” The #1 priority with producing the series was authenticity. The instructors, who are vets of Navy Seals, Army Rangers and Green Berets, designed the course together. There is no host. There is no cash prize. There are no contestants. There is no winner. “Just a pure look into the process of Selection,” Healy said. He noted during the Rio Summer Olympics, *Bill Murray* tweeted “Every Olympic event should include one average person competing for reference.” The series does that. – *Joyce Wang*

Reviews: “Catholics vs. Convicts,” Sat, 9pm ET, **ESPN**. Storytelling at its finest. Not sports storytelling, just storytelling, since you need to know almost nothing about college football to enjoy the series of backstories tied to an epic 1988 game. Among the main actors are *Jimmy Johnson* (Miami) and *Lou Holtz* (Notre Dame). In this “30 for 30” film, the game’s not the thing. The people and their stories are. And filmmaker *Pat Creadon* saw it up close. Heck, he lived it. -- “The Affair,” Sun, 10pm, **Showtime**. Color us surprised that this series continues to live beyond the events, told by both sides, in Season 2. Good content will do that. And this series still has lots of it. --

Notable: We’ll dismiss the debate about ballet being art or sport. For the 10th year **Ovation** deftly mixes the two, pitting ballet companies’ versions of *Tchaikovsky’s* “The Nutcracker” in a sports-minded winner-take-all “Battle of the Nutcrackers.” This year the big 5 all are international, with Berlin State Opera’s production kicking off Monday (12/12) at the boot camp-like time of 7am ET. A different company’s version runs each of the next 4 mornings through 12/16, with a performance from Dresden’s Semperoper. Fans vote online for their favorite. The winning company’s ballet runs again Dec. 21, at a sensible 7pm ET. – *Seth Arenstein*

Basic Cable Rankings (11/28/16-12/04/16)			
Mon-Sun Prime			
1	ESPN	1.2	2681
1	FOXN	1.2	2641
3	HALL	1.0	2236
4	AMC	0.7	1534
5	USA	0.6	1463
5	FRFM	0.6	1451
5	HGTV	0.6	1443
5	HIST	0.6	1333
5	TBSC	0.6	1330
5	HMM	0.6	1007
11	DISC	0.5	1273
11	ID	0.5	1014
11	DSE	0.5	102
14	DSNY	0.4	1007
14	MSNB	0.4	960
14	TNT	0.4	945
14	FOOD	0.4	943
14	NFLN	0.4	705
14	NKJR	0.4	670
20	ADSM	0.3	810
20	A&E	0.3	793
20	TLC	0.3	777
20	LIFE	0.3	769
20	NAN	0.3	744
20	FX	0.3	744
20	CNN	0.3	725
20	FXX	0.3	689
20	TVLD	0.3	684
20	BRAV	0.3	660
20	SYFY	0.3	645
20	SPK	0.3	582
20	OWN	0.3	543
20	DSJR	0.3	515
20	UDN	0.3	439
35	VH1	0.2	515
35	CMDY	0.2	487
35	APL	0.2	445
35	WETV	0.2	439
35	LMN	0.2	439
35	BET	0.2	434
35	TRAV	0.2	429
35	ESP2	0.2	423
35	MTV	0.2	413
35	NGC	0.2	403

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



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Entry Deadline
December 9, 2016
Final Deadline
December 16, 2016

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