

Cablefax Daily™

Monday — January 28, 2019

What the Industry Reads First

Volume 30 / No. 017

Disaster Relief: Recovery From Hurricane Michael Nearly Complete

In the three months since Hurricane Michael made landfall in the Florida Panhandle, cable companies have been steadfastly working to repair the damage. The storm caused at least \$14.58bln in total damages and at least 60 deaths, and left thousands without power and cable. Thankfully, the majority of restoration efforts are nearly complete. **WOW!** announced it had rebuilt 430 miles of network in under 90 days, however there is still a long way to go. “In the areas that we serve, it’s a bit of a challenge when we say ‘we’re back to normal.’ I don’t think there’s a normal in that area, specifically in certain spots,” operations vp **Ed Sesi** told **Cablefax**. “We’re very conscious of the long road ahead, so when we say normal, we’re hopeful that we’re providing a good level of service and opportunity to connect with folks and others. It’s pretty impactful, the landscape has changed, individuals have been impacted, so we want to provide them with reassurance and hope. I don’t think it’ll get back to a past historical normal, but rather the new normal.” **WOW!** and **Cable ONE** came together to donate more than \$60K to employees affected by the storm, with **Cable ONE** donating \$20K to affected **WOW!** employees. **WOW!**’s former CEO **Steven Cochran** joined **Cable ONE** over the summer as svp, CFO. “Our employees did collect funds for donations to the **WOW!** associates,” said **Trish Niemann**, director of corporate communications. “We’ve had our fair share of disasters hit our markets, most recently Hurricane Harvey. We understood what the **WOW!** associates were going through.” **WOW!** has been coordinating with the government to examine preventing destruction of this level in the future. “We’ve been in partnership with all levels of local and state and federal government. A storm of this magnitude brought out unique challenges, but throughout all of this there’s been a level of cooperation,” **Esi** said. “It’s been a unifying event in several ways. This is a very unique storm and hopefully we don’t see anything like this anywhere in the near future in the US or across the globe.” Other operators are also working hard to rebuild. **Mediacom** completed the majority of its reconstruction in Georgia and Florida with approximately 375 miles of fiber reconstructed. “We still have some work to do in the hardest hit areas with our Florida system, Southport and Mexico Beach,” said svp, govt and public relations **Tom Larsen**. “These areas sustained widespread catastrophic damage.” Currently, work is completed in 7 of 20 nodes in Southport, and is projected to be completed by Feb 27, though it could be done earlier. “The schedule in Mexico Beach is a little more fluid,” **Larsen** said. “We’ve

Cablefax Daily

**Don’t miss this opportunity
to get in front of small
and mid-sized operators!**

Cablefax editors will be covering the show with print editions onsite.

Find out the myriad ways Cablefax can help you maximize exposure before, during and after WEC 2019 in Atlanta Feb. 25-26. Contact Olivia Murray at omurray@accessintel.com

2019 CABLE HALL of FAME

REGISTER NOW

THURSDAY,
MAY 2, 2019
ZIEGFELD BALLROOM
NEW YORK CITY

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S 2 0 1 9 H O N O R E E S



LESLIE ELLIS
PRESIDENT,
ELLIS EDITS, INC.



PHIL KENT
FORMER CHAIRMAN & CEO,
TURNER BROADCASTING
SYSTEM, INC.



KYLE MCSLARROW
SVP, CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE,
COMCAST



STEVE MIRON
CEO,
ADVANCE/NEWHOUSE



MTV
FOUNDING CREATORS



**SUSAN SWAIN
AND ROB KENNEDY**
PRESIDENT & CO-CEOS,
C-SPAN

IT'S GOING TO BE ONE BIG PARTY

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE YOUR
SPONSORSHIP RESERVATION, CONTACT US AT

chof@cablecenter.org OR 720.502.7513

THE **CABLECENTER**

www.cablehalloffame.com / #CableHOF

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS
AS OF 1/21/19

Cablefax

CYNOPSISMEDIA

**Light
Reading**

Multichannel

FierceVideo

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 ● Associate Editor: Sara Winegardner, 301.354.1701, swinegardner@accessintel.com ● Associate Editor: Mollie Cahillane, 212.621.4951, mcahillane@accessintel.com ● Acct. Exec: Olivia Murray, 301.354.2010, omurray@accessintel.com ● VP Marketing: Amy Jefferies, 301.354.1699, ajefferies@accessintel.com ● Director of Marketing: Kate Schaeffer, kschaeffer@accessintel.com ● Prod. Mgr: Joann Fato, jfato@accessintel.com ● Diane Schwartz, SVP Media Comms Group, dschwartz@accessintel.com ● Group Subs or Subscription 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

done a door to door walkout of the area to determine which homes are inhabitable. Our crews will be prioritizing those homes first. With the extra crews we anticipate adding, we hope that it will be on a similar schedule to Southport.”

Charter restored TV service to virtually all of its customers in the Chattahoochee and Blountstown areas, where 70% of its local network was destroyed. As part of the rebuild, the company plans to connect those systems to its network in Dothan, AL later this year to launch Spectrum TV as well as Spectrum Internet and plans up to Spectrum Internet Gig.

Start the 21-Day Clock: President *Trump* announced a deal Friday afternoon to temporarily reopen the government, but most don’t expect business as usual. First, there’s the sheer backlog agencies will be looking at from the 34-day shutdown. And you thought your email inbox was bad after a week vacation... Then there’s the threat of another shutdown if a deal isn’t reached by Feb 15. Assuming the measure is approved by Congress and signed into law by Trump, the **FCC** will hold its January open meeting on Wednesday in its normal meeting room at the 12th St HQ. However, commissioners won’t be able to vote on any items. It’s unclear whether newly confirmed commish *Geoffrey Starks* will participate. Over at **NTIA**, the agency’s to-do list includes sifting through comments on developing a national spectrum strategy, which were due Jan 22.

100% Cubbies: **Tribune** sold its remaining 5% membership interest in **MLB’s Chicago Cubs** to team parent **Chicago Entertainment Ventures** for an undisclosed sum. That’s the entity the *Ricketts* family operates the team under after purchasing 95% of the Cubs from Tribune in 2009 for an estimated \$845mln. The Cubs are launching their own regional sports network, which the team plans to have ready for spring training 2020. Management has said the team is involved in a “multi-dimensional negotiation” for the network, rumored to be called **Marquee**, with reports suggesting **Sinclair** may end up being a partner. As for Tribune, **Nexstar** is in the process of attempting to close a \$4.1bln all-cash deal for its 42 broadcast stations and cable network **WGN America**.

Keeping Watch: After reports that **Facebook** is moving to integrate its **WhatsApp, Instagram** and **Facebook Messenger** apps, Sen *Ed Markey* (D-MA) stepped up again to voice his concerns on Facebook’s privacy practices. “We have heard a lot from Facebook about how it is committed to changing course and protecting its users’ information, but the company repeatedly has ignored its promises,” Markey said in a statement. “Now that Facebook plans to integrate its messaging services, we need more than mere assurances from the company that this move will not come at the expense of users’ data privacy and security. We cannot allow platform integration to become privacy disintegration.”

Super Bowl Sunday: **CBS** has the US broadcast rights to the big game. That’s not great news for consumers in mar-

CFX WHERE WE’LL BE IN 2019

LET CABLEFAX HELP EXCEED YOUR MARKETING GOALS FOR THE YEAR!

- Brand awareness
- Prospect Generation
- Content Marketing
- Relationship Building

Sales Contact: Olivia Murray
301.354.2010 | omurray@accessintel.com

WHERE WE’LL BE


- 1/8/19 CES in Vegas (Jan. 8 - 11)
- 1/22/19 NAPTE in Miami (Jan. 22 - 24)
- 1/28/19 ReelScreen Summit in New Orleans (Jan. 28 - 31)
- 1/29/19 TCA in Los Angeles (Jan. 29 - Feb. 13)
- 2/25/19 NCTC Winter Conference in Atlanta (Feb. 25 - 26)
- 3/8/19 SXSW Interactive in Austin (March 8-12)
- 3/19/19 CFX Roundtable at ACA
- 3/19/19 ACA Summit in DC (March 19-21)

kets with a retrans blackout. **TDS** has lost **Nexstar** stations in eight states, including several CBS stations, such as New Mexico's **KBIM** and Texas' **KLBK**. The provider is suggesting fans watch the Patriots-Rams via livestream at CBSsports.com (or CBS Sports app) or with the NFL Mobile app or Yahoo Sports app (all free). TDS pres/CEO *Jim Butman* published his third video on the retrans impasse Thursday. He pointed to the competition **Amazon** and **Netflix** bring, saying that Nexstar wants to lock in a higher rate because the broadcaster knows "their product, traditional TV programs, are losing ground." TDS said it will issue a credit in February for lost Nexstar channels, and each month after until a deal is reached. **ESPN** is ready for football's biggest game, kicking off more than 40 hours of live programming from Atlanta on Wednesday. The lineup includes pre- and post-game shows from Mercedes-Benz Stadium on Sunday. **ESPN Deportes** will televise the Super Bowl in Spanish, and ESPN Networks will present the game to more than 68mln households in 75 countries and territories. ESPN will also feature analysis, commentary, breaking news and video on its digital platforms, including the ESPN app.

More Time from the Mouse: **Disney** is extending the expiration date of the offers to exchange any and all outstanding notes issued by **21st Century Fox** for up to \$18.128bln aggregate principal amount of new notes to be issued by "New Disney." The new expiration date will be Feb 5 at 5pm.

Cablefax Dashboard

Tweet Tweet



Walter Piecyk @WaltSTIG Follow

SCMCSA CEO Brian Roberts says wireless to be reported "as part of the cable segment" in 2019. Does this mean wireless EBITDA losses will no longer be broken out? How about getting wireless revenue and churn? #transparency

6:14 AM - 23 Jan 2019



HBO @HBO Follow

It's cold. Send me a screenshot of your weather app and I'll recommend what you should watch because meteorology and entertainment actually go hand in hand.

11:00 AM - 23 Jan 2019

Up Ahead

- Jan 28-31:** [Realscreen Summit](#); New Orleans, LA
- February 1:** [Cablefax 100](#) Nominations Due
- February 25-26:** [NCTC Winter Educational Conference](#); Atlanta
- March 8-17:** [SXSW 2019](#); Austin, TX
- March 19-21:** [ACA Summit](#); DC
- March 27:** [T. Howard Foundation Diversity Awards Dinner](#); NYC

Research

- Average broadband usage for all US households in 2018 was 268.7GB/HH, up 33.3% from 201.6GB/HH in 2017.
- Median usage was 145.2GB/HH, a 40% increase over the 2017 medium of 103.6GB/HH.
- The percentage of power users (households using 1TB or more) almost doubled in 2018, rising to 4.12% of all households from 2.11% in 2017.
- Households exceeding 250GB rose to 36.4% from 28.4% in 2017.

(Source: OpenVault)

Quotable

"We think we should start and gain as much scale as possible with an ad-supported free-to-consumer service. There will be countries where we launch SVOD only, countries that don't have the advertising ecosystem that we have in the US or in parts of Europe... But if you look at Comcast and Sky alone, you're well over 50mln customers... We're going to be offering a lot of good things to people who are subscribing to those services and we'll have discussions with Charter and DirecTV and everybody around the world that's a multichannel supplier." -- **Comcast svp Steve Burke** on the company's 4Q19 earnings call

Cablefax Industry Jobs

3 Tips to Finding and Hiring the Perfect Candidate

TIP 1 : Target Candidates!

Post your openings on Cablefax's job board to reach top talent and filter applicants that lack industry experience. Ask about bundles to fit your needs and budget.

TIP 2 : Be Selective!

Don't waste time reading pointless resumes. You can search Cablefax's resume database for free, while utilizing the demographic filters.

TIP 3 : Stand Out!

Take advantage of upgrades to add exposure by taking advantage of upgrades, including weekly job eletters sent to over 40k industry executives.

