

# Cablefax Daily™

Monday — September 9, 2019

What the Industry Reads First

Volume 30 / No. 172

## Hurricane Dorian: Cable Bahamas Nonprofit Seeking Donations

After devastating the Bahamas earlier in the week, a weaker Hurricane Dorian took aim at North Carolina's Outer Banks Friday. **Charter**, the incumbent cable operator for NC's chain of barrier islands, said it expected to be able to evaluate any damage in the Outer Banks by Saturday. The MSO has already evaluated other areas, reporting that outages are overwhelmingly power-related. Dorian's destruction was much more severe in the Bahamas, where it hit as a historic Category 5 hurricane. Government officials in the Bahamas warned Friday that the death toll may be staggering, with thousands of people still listed as missing. "This is indeed a catastrophic event for us here in the Bahamas—both from a human and network perspective. However, I am pleased to say that all of our staff located on the impacted islands are safe. The next step is to confirm that their family members are also safe." **Cable Bahamas** COO *John Gomez* told **Cablefax** Friday. "From a high-level summary at this time, two of our large islands (Grand Bahama and Abaco) have been pretty much decimated. We will be in a better position within a week or two to provide more details around this." The operator and its nonprofit, charitable arm, **Cable Bahamas Cares Foundation**, have already started to mobilize and organize efforts to help Bahamians. The operator is asking affiliate partners to consider assisting with both monetary and non-monetary donations to the foundation, pledging that all monetary contributions will be donated for hurricane relief from Cable Bahamas Ltd., The Cable Bahamas Cares Foundation, **Aliv** and our partners. Non-monetary needs include bottled water, medicine & medical supplies, generators, clothing, building materials, batteries, food and personal hygiene products. Those interested in making donations may contact *M'Khel Ferguson* at [M'Khel.Ferguson@cablebahamas.com](mailto:M'Khel.Ferguson@cablebahamas.com). In the US, Florida was initially thought to be a target, but by Friday it was largely business as usual in the state. The **FCC** deactivated Florida Thursday from its disaster reporting system, and added Georgia to the deactivation list on Friday. The FCC's latest disaster report showed cable system and wireline outages of more than 106K in SC as of Friday morning, with 41K reported in NC. The stats were as of 11:30am ET Friday, with Dorian passing over NC's Cape Hatteras around 8:35am. Charter opened up 44K WiFi hotspots in NC and SC to help with communications during and after the storm. Comcast's recovery efforts are primarily focused in Charleston, SC, with the area suffering flooding and wind damage. Downtown

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## INTRODUCING...

### OPENING GENERAL SESSION

October 01 | 9:00am-11:15am

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**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:**  
**Preetha Vijayakumar**  
 VP, Enterprise Network &  
 Communications Services,  
 FedEx

### AWARD LUNCHEON

October 02 | 11:30am-1:00pm

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**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:**  
**David Pogue**  
 New York Times Columnist,  
 CBS Tech Contributor &  
 NOVA Host

## DON'T MISS OUT ON THESE EVENTS!

### ACA CONNECTS BREAKFAST

October 02 | 8:00am-10:00am



President/CEO Matt Polka and SVP/Government Affairs Ross Lieberman of ACA Connects-America's Communications Association's will lead a discussion on the Association's DC priorities and what can be expected in 2019-20 from the FCC and Hill. With a focus on technical, operational, and engineering issues, ACA Connects will cover the latest developments regarding the government's regulation of broadband Internet access service and new rules related to franchise agreements. The ACA Connects Team will also cover the Association's C-Band proposal for 5G and rural broadband, which will open spectrum for additional deployment and broadband uses. ACA Connects will update members on the progress of Shaken/Stir—the process of authenticating caller ID to diminish the number of robocalls—and will cover upcoming regulatory obligations. And, Mark Dzuban, president and CEO of SCTE•ISBE, will be stopping by to discuss SCTE•ISBE initiatives with ACA Connects.



**MODERATOR:**  
**Matthew M. Polka**  
 President & CEO,  
 ACA Connects



**MODERATOR:**  
**Ross Lieberman**  
 SVP, Government  
 Affairs,  
 ACA Connects



**SPEAKER:**  
**Mark L. Dzuban**  
 President & CEO,  
 SCTE•ISBE

### ACA CONNECTS DISCUSSION ON NETWORK MANAGEMENT AND GROWTH FOR MID-SIZE AND SMALL OPERATORS

October 02 | 1:30pm-2:00pm | Exhibit Hall, Innovation Theater



**MODERATOR:**  
**Matthew M. Polka**  
 President & CEO,  
 ACA Connects



**SPEAKER:**  
**Josh Barstow**  
 EVP, Corporate  
 Strategy & Business  
 Development,  
 OpenVault LLC



**SPEAKER:**  
**Cash Hagen**  
 COO,  
 Evolution Digitalq



**SPEAKER:**  
**Ken Johnson, Sr.**  
 VP Technology  
 Services,  
 Sparklight

\*Additional speakers to be announced. Visit [expo.scte.org](http://expo.scte.org) for more information.

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and some nearby islands were inaccessible Friday afternoon, a spokesperson said. As is usually the case with such storms, a significant portion of Comcast's outages are related to commercial power loss. "We have teams out in the community assessing damage and more than 100 crews staged in Charleston, beginning their repair work and ready to go into those hardest hit areas as soon as they are reopened and declared safe to operate, and are set to bring in additional resources as needed," the Comcast rep said. "Meanwhile, we're actively reaching out to customers and giving them electronic means to report any service outages or issues they may be having."

**T-Mobile Sued For Misleading Metro Customers:** T-Mobile is in hot water with the Big Apple. The New York City government sued the company Wednesday, accusing it of using "abusive sales tactics" in its Metro stores and selling used phones that are branded as new to consumers. The suit also claims that Metro is falsely advertising a 30-day guarantee on all cell phone purchases, but in actuality the policy only allows returns or exchanges for certain transactions, and only then within 7 days of purchase. The city also alleges that T-Mobile has been overcharging consumers on their bills, with unexplained payments, fees and charges. The NYC government claims that the behavior spans across 56 locations across the city's five boroughs and includes both authorized dealers and stores directly operated by T-Mobile subsidiary **MetroPCS NY**.

**Broadband Mapping Legislation Hits House:** Reps *Dave Loebsack* (D-IA) and *Bob Latta* (R-OH) introduced bipartisan legislation designed to improve the accuracy of the **FCC's** broadband availability maps by changing the way broadband data is collected. Co-sponsored by reps *Billy Long* (R-MO) and *Donald McEachin* (D-VA), the legislation is similar to the Broadband DATA Act introduced in the Senate in June. The bill requires the FCC to collect granular service availability from wired, fixed, wireless and satellite broadband providers and creates a process to challenge the maps with conflicting data. McEachin and Long introduced legislation of their own with the Mapping Accuracy Promotes Services Act which would make it against the law to knowingly provide inaccurate data to the FCC. Loebsack and Latta co-sponsored the bill.

**ESPN Celebrates Turning 40:** Saturday marks 40 years of **ESPN**, and the net is going all-out to celebrate. At 7pm Friday, **ESPN2** will air "SportsCenter Special: ESPN's 40," a collection of 40 testimonials from ESPNers past and present. The one-hour program will share personal stories connected to ESPN, and interviews include *Chris Berman*, *George Bodenheimer*, *Molly Qerim Rose* and more. Speaking of Berman, the personality has been counting down the top 40 moments in sports since ESPN's 1979 launch. The event kicked off Tuesday with the 7am Sports Center and finished with the top 10 moments Friday morning. ESPN's first live event was a professional slo-pitch softball game between the



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Kentucky Bourbons and the Milwaukee Schlitzes. The game had not been seen since Sept 7, 1979, as the tapes went missing from the ESPN archives. However, the game was found, and on Sept 10 at 7pm, an episode of "E:60" titled "Game 1" will tell the story of the lost telecast and share moments from television history. Starting at 8am Friday, the ESPN40 logo is running for 40 consecutive hours on the Bottom Line across ESPN, **ESPN2**, **ESPNEWS** and **ESPNU**. Online and social are getting in on the fun too. *Queen Latifah* and *Snoop Dogg* teamed up to record an ESPN-specific version of "Rapper's Delight" with some of the net's on-air commentators. The song was originally sung by *The Sugarhill Gang* and debuted Sept 16, 1979, a week after ESPN's launch. The video will appear across ESPN platforms. The ESPN Archive channel launched on **YouTube**, and features excerpts from classic ESPN shows and events. ESPN commentators are taking part in a 30-minute live stream on **Twitter**, ESPN.com, the ESPN App and Facebook at 6pm Friday celebrating the anniversary and sharing anecdotes. And finally, the "This is SportsCenter" franchise is introducing twelve new commercials, marking the first time ESPN debuted this many TISC spots at once. Commercials featuring *Saquon Barkley*, *Jared Goff*, *Brooks Koepka*, *Becky Lynch*, *Manny Machado* and more will air on across TV, digital and social. Four additional spots will air only on digital and social channels.

**AT&T, AMG Fined For Chatting in Auction Quiet Period:** The **FCC Enforcement Bureau** fined **AT&T** and **AMG Technology Investment Group** \$75K and \$100K, respectively, for violating the prohibited communications rule during the Commission's CAF Phase II auction and not reporting their conversations. During the auction's quiet period, AMG majority owner and authorized auction participant *Bill Baker* sent more than a half-dozen emails to AT&T, including management-level personnel, with details surrounding AMG's auction bids, strategies and results, according to the FCC. The Bureau also fined the companies for not notifying the Commission of potential prohibited communications in a timely fashion.

**Comcast Business Launches Cybersecurity Initiatives:** **Comcast Business** has two upcoming strategic initiatives aiming to increase innovation in cloud-based cybersecurity for all its customers. The company is collaborating with cybersecurity company **Fortinet** to integrate capabilities of Fortinet's firewall and security services to protect against security threats. The second partnership is through cybersecurity provider **Akamai** to develop cloud-based solutions aimed at protecting small businesses from increased cyberattacks. According to a recent study from **Hiscox**, nearly half of small businesses in the US suffered a cyberattack in 2017. Comcast says these solutions are designed to mitigate the rising risk and will provide small business owners greater visibility into their network safety with personalized dashboards and customized reports detailing network activity and threats.

**NFL and Reddit Strike a Deal:** The **National Football League** and online platform **Reddit** struck a partnership that will connect the website's 330mln monthly active users directly to the NFL's network of talent and personalities. The deal includes a series of "Ask Me Anythings" with members of the NFL community and a video content series with first-to-market advertising opportunities for brands. The video series will be distributed across both Reddit and the NFL's media channels, including digital and social. Advertisers can sponsor the NFL AMA videos in a new pre-roll opportunity for third-party brands.

**On the Circuit:** More headliners have been announced for **SCTE-ISBE's** Cable-Tec Expo. Innovator *Dean Kamen*, who founded **FIRST**, an international youth organization dedicated to science and technology, will take the stage Tuesday Oct 1 with **CableLabs** pres/CEO **Phil McKinney**. Expo also will feature execs from **Intel** and **FedEx** on the main stage. **Cablefax** is the official show daily for the conference. -- Diversity Week is nearly here, and **NAMIC** announced that *Cathy Hughes*, founder and chairperson for **Urban One**, will receive the Mickey Leland Humanitarian Award. The lifetime achievement award recognizes individuals and companies commitment to advancing the

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concerns of people of color. She'll be presented the award during a luncheon in NYC on Sept 18 at 12pm. -- **TV One** and **CLEO TV** gm *Michelle Rice* will be honored for her work in media with the 2019 Lew Klein Alumni in Media Award by Temple University's Klein College of Media and Communications. The award will be presented at a luncheon in Philadelphia on Oct 4.

**Ratings:** The US Open on **ESPN Networks** is up 25% YOY, averaging a 1.0 after 10 days. The 2018 event concluded as ESPN's most-watched US Open since 2015. Through Tuesday, all key demos were up and viewership included a 23% jump in female viewers and 11% among A18-34. Thursday night's women's semifinals featuring *Serena Williams* and *Elina Svitolina* earned a 1.6, up 14% YOY.

**Editor's Note:** **NAMIC** and **Cablefax** are teaming up again to recognize the Most Influential Multi-Ethnic Executives in Cable. Join us for a [reception](#) during Diversity Week as we celebrate the senior group of movers and shakers on Cablefax: The Magazine's Diversity List. Deadline to purchase tickets and tables is Sept 12. -- Don't forget! **Cablefax** has you covered during **SCTE-ISBE's Cable-Tec Expo**. As the official show publication, we'll provide you updates on all the latest and greatest Expo happenings. Plus, we'll produce a news-driven Video Daily, highlighting show developments.

## Cablefax Dashboard

### Tweet Tweet



### Up Ahead

**Sept 10:** [NTIA Spectrum Policy Symposium](#); Washington DC

**Sept 13 - 17:** [The IBC Show](#); Amsterdam

**Sept 16-18:** [CCA Annual Convention](#); Providence, Rhode Island

**Sept 17:** [Cablefax Diversity List Reception](#), NYC

**Sept 17-18:** [33rd Annual NAMIC Conference](#); NYC

**Sept 23-26:** [Advertising Week](#); NYC

### Research

- > Only 13% of the 1,058 US adults surveyed said that neither weather nor weather-related disasters are becoming more extreme. 60% say both are happening.
- > Those without a college degree are more likely to say weather is becoming more extreme than those with a degree (80% vs. 69%) and those with a college degree are also more likely to believe that weather-related disasters are becoming more extreme (79% vs. 69%).
- > Among those who think the weather and weather-related disasters are growing in severity, half think this change is caused by climate change.

(Source: *The August 2019 Associated Press - NORC poll*)

### Quotable

"The president absolutely should address China's forced technology transfers and IP theft. But this unpredictable tariff policy is forcing us down the wrong economic path. Continuous threats of more tariffs and occasional promises that trade talks are progressing mean whiplash for global stock markets. That uncertainty hurts every American with a pension, retirement fund or college savings plan."  
- **Gary Shapiro, President and CEO, Consumer Technology Association**

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