

Cablefax Daily™

Monday — July 27, 2020

What the Industry Reads First

Volume 31 / No. 142

Retrans: DISH-Scripps Goes Down to the Wire, Comcast-Sinclair Reach Deal

DISH could lose **Scripps** stations in 42 markets Friday evening (7/24) if the two can't settle on terms to a new retransmission consent deal. Scripps said it has never experienced a station blackout with any cable or satellite operator since launching its first station in 1947 (WEWS in Cleveland). "After five months of negotiating with DISH and multiple contract extensions, Scripps and DISH Network may be reaching an impasse," Scripps said. "We hope DISH will understand the need for Scripps' viewers to receive its local television stations given the pressing news in our communities right now, including a global pandemic, discussions around social unrest, the active political year and severe weather season." DISH said it's still in negotiations and doesn't understand why Scripps has involved customers at this time. "We are working to not only reach an agreement, but a long-term agreement for our customers," the company said. The COVID-19 pandemic had put a pause on retrans squabbles, but that ended earlier in the week when DISH lost 10 **Cox Media Group** stations after a federal court dissolved a temporary restraining order that had kept them on DISH. DISH also could lose the former **Northwest Broadcasting** stations that are now part of Cox Media Group on July 31 if a new deal or extension isn't reached. DISH previously lost the stations in January, but they were returned as part of a temporary truce because of the current health crisis. It's not all blackouts on the retrans front. **Comcast's** months of negotiations with **Sinclair** finally ended with a deal. They reached a multi-year carriage agreement that includes continued retrans consent for 78 Sinclair stations in 51 markets, as well as **Tennis Channel**, the 18 former **Fox** RSNs and **YES Network**. Cubs fans can rest easy ahead of the Chicago opener Friday. The deal also adds carriage for Chicago RSN **Marquee Sports Network**, which launched in February. It was a big question mark for months as Comcast is the dominant MVPD in the market. "We are pleased to continue and expand our partnership with Comcast under which we provide a broad array of valuable programming to its subscribers, including our award-winning local news and sports programming," *Barry Faber*, Sinclair's president of distribution & network relations, said in a statement. "Sports are an important part of Sinclair and we are pleased that Comcast's greater Chicago customers can join the list of passionate fans that enjoy Sinclair's local sports programming."

Solid 2Q at Verizon: Verizon posted solid 2Q sub growth that included 10K Fios internet additions and consumer





Telehealth in the Virtual Age

Presented by Cablefax

Thursday, August 13
1:00 – 4:30pm ET
Online Event

www.TelehealthAge.com

Telehealth...The Next Big Opportunity for Broadband?

In this virtual event on Aug. 13, Cablefax will assemble panels of experts to assess key opportunities for the cable & broadband sector as advances in telehealth intersect with changing patient behavior,

AGENDA

1:00 – 1:05pm ET

WELCOME

1:05 – 1:25pm ET

Telehealth 101: What You Need to Know Now

In our kick-off conversation with Jailendra Singh at Credit Suisse, we'll ask this veteran healthcare technology analyst how he sees the telehealth future shaping up. What challenges are healthcare providers, insurance entities, patients and other players facing as more healthcare dollars shift to remote health monitoring and other forms of telehealth services? What are the implications for the entire industry as it evolves to meet increasing patient demands for more flexibility and autonomy?

Speaker:



Jailendra Singh
Lead Analyst, Healthcare
Technology & Distribution
Credit Suisse

1:25 – 1:55pm ET

Wake Up Call: The Future, Brought to You by COVID-19

In this opening session, we'll discuss how the ongoing pandemic has focused attention on broadband's potential as a telemedicine lifeline.

Speakers:



Chris Bastain
CTO
SCTE*ISBE



Kara Mullaley
Community Broadband Market
Development Manager
Corning

1:55 – 2:15pm ET

Fireside Chat: Real-World Applications with Trappollo's Mike Braham

We'll sit down with Trappollo CEO Mike Braham to understand how this Cox Business company takes connected patient engagement to the next level with its virtual-care platform, including program design and consulting, logistics and support and chronic care management.

Speaker:



Mike Braham
CEO
Trappollo

2:15 – 3:00pm ET

Screenology: Consumers Take Control with Tech

All telehealth services depend on the broadband network. We'll find out how mobile apps and other telehealth technology is making it easier for both patients and hospitals—and how broadband providers can partner with all sides to secure a place at the table as telehealth continues its exponential growth in the coming years.

Speakers:



Carina Edwards
CEO
Quil



Bonny Roberts
Director, Portfolio Management for
Business, Information Technology
Centura Health

3:00 – 3:15pm ET

Networking Break

3:15 – 4:00pm ET

Case Study: Telehealth Opportunities for Rural Broadband

In rural areas, remote access to healthcare services isn't just a convenience... It can be a matter of life and death. We'll explore GCI Communications' approach to ensuring that telehealth reaches every corner of Alaska and get a glimpse as to how this innovative broadband provider works with hospitals and patients—and navigates the legal and regulatory landscape—to ensure its customers receive the best care no matter where they live.

Speaker:



Pam Lloyd
VP, GCI Corporate Strategy:
Government, Healthcare
& Education
GCI Communications

4:00-4:30pm ET

A World of Possibility: Imagine Where We Might Go From Here!

We'll talk about the future applications and technology that will drive telehealth's future—as well as how broadband providers prioritize infrastructure projects and business partnerships.

We'll also screen the award-winning short film "A Better Place" to get a fascinating peek at the amazing innovations that are right around the corner—and how the cable industry can lead the charge.

Speaker:



Eric Klassen
Executive Producer
CableLabs

Thanks to Our Sponsor: **CORNING**

Register at www.TelehealthAge.com

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phone net adds of 97K—a contrast to the 151K mobile phone losses reported by **AT&T**. Like the rest of pay TV, Verizon saw video losses, with Fios video losing 81K in the quarter—up from 52K in 2Q19. With net income of \$4.7bln (up from \$3.9bln) and net income of \$30.4bln (down from \$32.1bln), the company continues to expect hit 2020 full-year guidance. Shares closed up 1.79% Friday. During 2Q, Verizon transitioned from an initial period of not performing installations to the introduction of “Fios in a Box” in late April to having techs resume entering customers’ homes in the beginning of June. “This activity led to a significant improvement in Fios internet gross adds in June, which has carried in to July,” CFO *Matthew Ellis* said during Friday’s earnings call. As for customers taking advantage of the **FCC** Keep Americans Connected pledge, Ellis said the majority of these accounts have made some payments (more than 80% of wireless customers) and more than 1/3 of such accounts are current at the end of the pledge. Many impacted customers were enrolled in a repayment program beginning in July that provides extended terms for past due service and device payments. “We believe the vast majority of these accounts can be cured over time, though it will heavily depend on the macroeconomic environment,” Ellis said. At this time, Verizon has taken no additional bad debt reserve.

Baseball Hits a Home Run: Baseball is BACK, with the numbers to show it. Thursday’s opening game featuring the Yankees at the Washington Nationals may have been cut short due to a rain delay, but it still pulled in 4mln viewers on **ESPN**, the largest audience for an Opening Night game ever. It was also the most-watched regular season MLB game across any network since 2011. The game was up 232% from last year’s Opening Night telecast between the Boston Red Sox and Seattle Mariners. The second half of the doubleheader between the San Francisco Giants against the LA Dodgers at 10pm drew in an average 2.764mln viewers, ESPN’s most-watched MLB regular season late night ET game ever. In other MLB news, the league is expanding the 2020 postseason from a 10 team format to sixteen teams, eight from the American League and eight from the National League. ESPN has the exclusive TV rights to seven of the eight first round series. **TBS** will have the other game. The playoffs are set to take place Sept 29-Oct 2.

FCC Staying Home Through June: The **FCC** will allow staff members that are already teleworking to continue doing so until at least June, according to a memo obtained by *Communications Daily* from chmn *Ajit Pai*’s chief of staff *Matthew Berry*. “We want to provide those with concerns ranging from childcare to their own health with the peace of mind that they will have the flexibility they need over the coming months,” Berry said. The agency has also delayed its move to its new headquarters until September.

NAB Fighting Against FCC 6GHz Order: **NAB** filed a petition for review with the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit Friday asking it to vacate the **FCC**’s order authorizing unlicensed usage of the 6GHz band. The association argued that the order fails to protect existing licensed users from potential interference that coils arise from unlicensed use. “Television broadcasters in particular have both fixed and mobile operations in the 6GHz band, which require different protective measures to be adequately insulated from harmful interference,” NAB said. “The Order neglects to include proper safeguards for either type of broadcast operation.” NAB is now seeking relief from the order on the grounds that it is arbitrary, capricious and a violation of federal law.

FCC Grants Service Electric Syndex Waiver: The **FCC**’s Media Bureau granted **Service Electric Cablevision** a waiver of its syndicated exclusivity rules. The waiver applies to broadcast station WFMZ, which was added to Service Electric’s channel lineup shortly before the filing of the petition. **New Age Media** then sent Service Electric a notice asserting its Syndex rights on behalf of its affiliate, WOLF, for two programs on Service Electric’s Hazelton, PA, system. New Age Media’s assertion of its rights would usually require Service Electric to delete the programs to subscribers in all of the Hazelton communities, only four of which are subject to the Syndex deletion requirements. As Service Electric’s current technical configuration of the Hazelton system does not allow it to only delete the programs from those four communities, the Media Bureau found that the cost of compliance outweighed the benefits.

In Memory: Longtime cable exec and **NAMIC** founding member *Nate Garner* passed away at the age of 75. Garner first joined the industry in 1978 with **Time Inc.**’s American Telecommunications and Cable, where he went on to hold several executive roles within **Manhattan Cable**. He became the first Black president of a subscription television service in New York when he was named president of **Paragon Cable**. He also served as svp of **USA Network**’s eastern region affiliate sales, playing a key role in the launch of **SYFY**. He’s survived by his five adult children.

Cablefax Dashboard

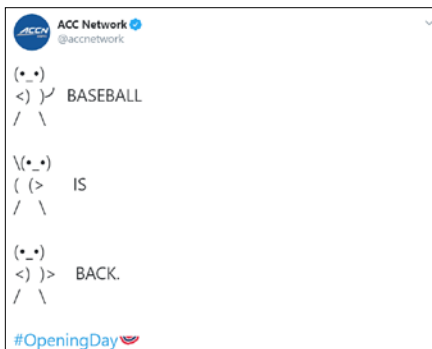
Hero of the Week



Telemundo Scenery and Wardrobe Team:

Throughout the pandemic, members of Telemundo's Scenery and Wardrobe team have been working tirelessly to create face masks for everyone working at the Telemundo Center headquarters in Miami to use as part of the preventive measures implemented in response to COVID-19. Roberto Gutiérrez and Juan José Perez in the Scenery Department, wardrobe designers Beatriz Rubio and Monica Bencic, and Marly Meza in Scenic Operations sewed 350 masks per day until they reached 5,000 masks, so that all those working in the building would be protected. Check out a video of the team in action [here](#).

Tweet Tweet



Research

- 222mln flat-panel TVs will ship in 2020, a 3% decrease from 2019.
- Video streaming services became more popular during lockdown due to their low cost. The increase in streaming services caused a surge in streaming media adapter shipments of more than 4mln units.
- Despite the headwinds caused by COVID-19 in 2020, the global flat-panel TV market is expected to rebound in 2021 as businesses reopen.
- The market is projected to grow at CAGR 4.3% to reach 275mln units in 2025.
(Source: [ABI Research](#))

Quotable

"When we did the DirecTV transaction, what we were interested in was ensuring that we could build a platform that allowed us to do things like offer advertising into our customer base, allow them to take their entertainment wherever they go, to do it on their terms. And we were talking about that back in 2015, and HBO Max and what we've done with AT&T TV gives us some very capable platforms to ensure we can continue to evolve the product in that way... And if that takes us down a path that says satellite delivery is less important, so be it. But I'm not going to speculate on where we go."

– **AT&T CEO John Stankey**
speaking with CNBC's "Squawk on the Street" on a [potential DirecTV sale](#)

We Want to Feature Your Heroes!

On Fridays, Cablefax will feature a local hero. We're looking for stories of employees who are going above and beyond. Maybe they are volunteering in their community, sewing mask covers for hospitals, spearheading supply donations, etc.



Please send a photo and 150-200 words about the person to amaclean@cablefax.com

Contact Olivia Murray at omurray@accessintel.com to sponsor this feature section