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WHAT THE INDUSTRY READS FIRST

Dumpster Diving: Not Many Objections to FCC's Mass Docket Purge

Buried in the more than 2,000 dockets the **FCC** has identified for termination are a few needles in the regulatory haystack that interested parties say need to be kept open. But the vast majority appear ready for the trash bin.

The **Walt Disney Company**, **Fox Corp.** and **NBCUniversal** pointed to docket 16-306, which is associated with the TV Broadcaster Relocation Fund that was established by Congress to reimburse broadcasters for certain relocation costs caused by the Commission's incentive auction. In the 2017 auction, 987 TV stations were moved, with 175 broadcasters splitting \$10 billion for selling their spectrum to wireless companies. The networks, which are the parent companies of the **ABC**, **FOX** and **NBC** stations in Chicago, said the docket needs to stay open because they haven't received reimbursement yet as repack-work hasn't been completed by tower owner Willis Tower. There have been various delays related to engineering and safety considerations given the work on facilities on a skyscraper located in a densely populated area, the networks said.

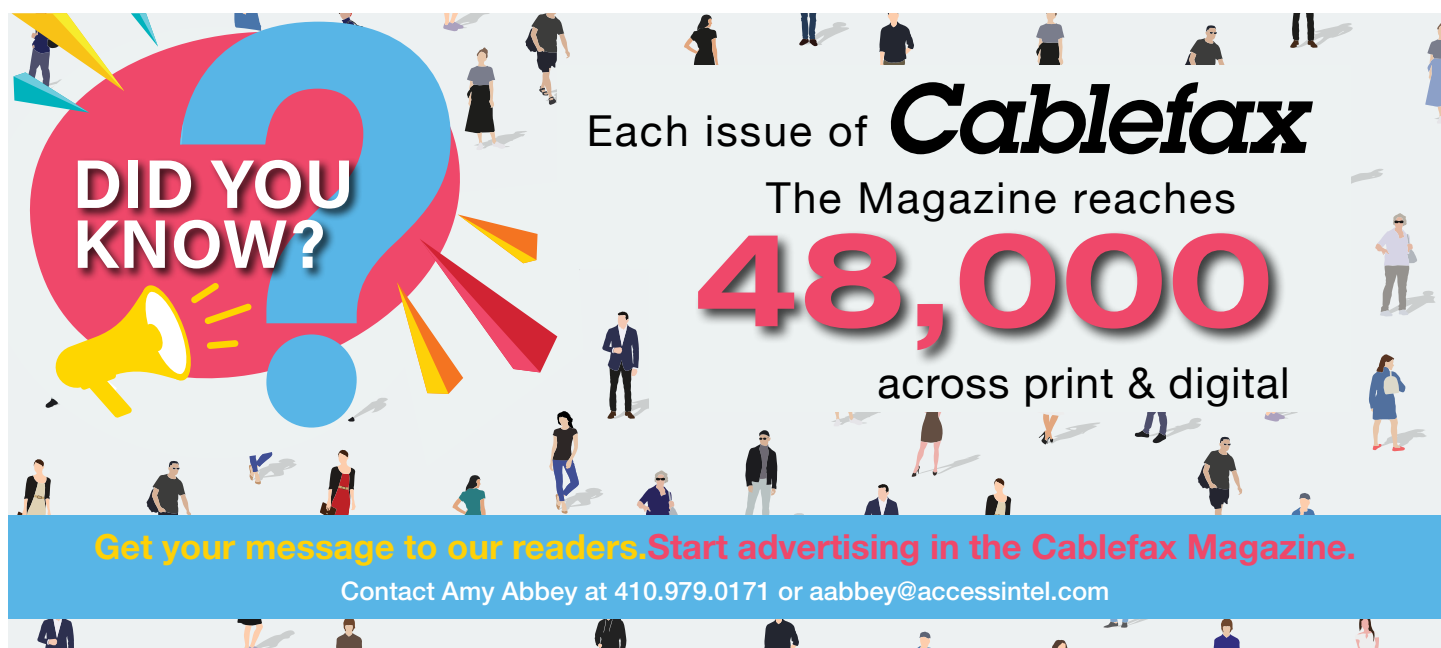
NCTA is asking the FCC to keep open a docket that sought comment on whether to give MVPDs more flexibility in how they provide electronic notice to their subscribers. Instead of closing the proceeding, it asks the FCC to revise the rule so that required customer notifications can be sent via other electronic communications methods besides email, such as text message or via mobile apps. "Rather than closing the pro-

ceeding, we respectfully request that the Commission revise the electronic notice rules consistent with the deregulatory goals of the *Trump* Administration and the Commission," the association said.

The FCC revealed the 2,057 dockets on deck for deletion in May, seeking comment from the public. The Commission has done this sort of clean-up before, terminating 650 dormant proceedings in 2020, but this is by far the largest number ever targeted for the trash, with the oldest docket in the bunch dating back to 1991. In comments this week, think tank **Free State Foundation** complained that the *Biden*-era FCC failed to make use of its authority to terminate dormant proceedings. "It has been nearly five years since the Commission's Eighth Dormant Proceedings Termination Order. That appears to be the longest period of neglect since the Commission adopted a procedure order for records management in 2011.

With comments on plans to terminate due Wednesday, only a handful of requests came in seeking to stop deletion. **Lockheed Martin** wants action in a proceeding that was opened to examine the use of the 4400-4940 MHz C-band for commercial operators to conduct aeronautical mobile telemetry in support of flight testing in the band. There was also some interest in keeping a proceeding to extend to FM translators limited program origination authority.

Some commenters actually used the proceeding to urge the FCC to add more dockets to the trash heap, such as a 2017 docket that former FCC Chairwoman *Jessica Rosenworcel*



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contemplated action in the docket last year that would have potentially banned bulk billing arrangements for broadband in multi-tenant environments. It faced pushback from the cable industry and housing advocates, and *Brendan Carr* removed the item from circulation after taking the chairmanship. **The National Multifamily Housing Council**, **the National Apartment Association** and the **Real Estate Technology & Transformation Center** filed comments this week asking for it to be closed: “An open docket chills the market and discourages innovation because it implies that the Commission is still considering further action.”

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PARAMOUNT-SKYDANCE WATCH

As we wait for regulatory movement on the \$8 billion **Skydance-Paramount Global** merger, Democrats are making noise that they want the full **FCC** (currently three commissioners) to vote on the deal. In a letter Thursday to newly installed Commissioner *Olivia Trusty*, Senators *Ed Markey* (D-MA) and *Ben Ray Lujan* (D-NM) repeated a concern that lone FCC Democrat Commissioner **Anna Gomez** has voiced for months: that Chairman *Brendan Carr* might unilaterally direct the Media Bureau to approve the transaction on delegated authority instead of putting it up for a vote. The lawmakers said the \$16 million settlement Paramount made with President Trump over a “60 Minutes” episode “casts a shadow over the proposed Paramount-Skydance merger and raises serious questions about the editorial independence of one of the nation’s largest media organizations.” This week, the deal entered into its second 90-day extension after failing to close. On Monday, representatives from the **Center for American Rights**, which filed a news distortion complaint over the 60 Minutes ep, and the **International Brotherhood of Teamsters** met with FCC Media Bureau staffers to reiterate their ideas for how the FCC can improve the deal if it OKs it. The Teamsters have suggested staffing conditions, while CAR has made recommendations regarding Skydance’s ties to foreign governments and the ideological views of CBS News.

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VIX JOINS DIRECTV GENRE PACK

DirecTV’s Spanish-language skinny bundle is getting a boost. The MVPD added **VIX** Premium with Ads to the **MiEspañol** Genre Pack, bringing the **TelevisaUnivision**-owned streamer’s full library to subscribers while enlarging an offering that already has **TUDN**, **ESPN Deportes**, **Telemundo** and more. ViX has more than 80,000 hours of content spanning news and entertainment, sports, music and novelas, coming with series such as “Con Esa Misma Mirada,” “Las Hijas de la Señora García,” “Papá Soltero,” as well as movies like “Es por su

bien” and “Radical.” **MiEspañol** is one of five DirecTV Genre Packs available and costs \$34.99/month.

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ATLANTA SUBURB TAPS COMCAST FOR SMART UPGRADE

The city of Tucker, Georgia, has teamed up with **Comcast** Smart Solutions to embed smart technology into its public trail and park system. The collaboration upgrades existing lighting fixtures along one of the city’s public trails with a fully integrated video analytics, CCTV, WiFi and lighting solution. The new system, which is powered by **Comcast Business**’ dedicated internet, enables real-time monitoring and insights into foot traffic and trail activity, allowing officials to respond more quickly to potential issues.

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SPECTRUM ADDS ASL SERVICE TO 20 NYC STORES

Charter is making some of its Spectrum stores more accessible, debuting a virtual American Sign Language interpreting service at 20 locations in the NYC area. Customers can scan a QR code at participating stores to virtually connect with an interpreter, who’ll assist with the conversation between a customer and store specialist in real time. Spectrum is working with **Sorenson Communications**, a global language services provider, on the solution, utilizing its call captioning and video relay services, video remote and in-person sign language and spoken language interpretation, translation, real-time captioning and post-production language services. Both Charter and Sorenson were named to *Forbes*’ new “Accessibility 100” list that [came out last month](#).

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TEGNA SETTLES WITH FCC

The **FCC** Enforcement Bureau resolved its investigation into whether **TEGNA** subsidiary **King Broadcasting** aired obscene or indecent material over station KREM in Spokane, WA. The Commission received a complaint alleging that during an Oct. 2021 weather report on the 6pm newscast a “pornographic video” was seen playing on one of the televisions visible behind the weatherperson. TEGNA settled the matter by agreeing to voluntarily pay \$222,500 and implement a compliance plan in a consent decree that terminates the investigation, including any potential hearing over whether it’s qualified to hold a broadcast license. During the investigation, TEGNA confirmed that an unknown party caused pornographic material to be displayed for approximately 13 seconds on a monitor that was visible on-air. The FCC said station staff acted

by switching to a full-screen shot of weather graphics, apologized to viewers, launched an internal investigation and worked with local law enforcement. KREM determined the material was displayed through a screencasting feature built into the monitor, which allowed video to be transmitted via a legacy local wireless network that did not require a password or authentication (unlike the normal wireless network used by the station). The legacy network was installed prior to the station's acquisition by TEGNA in 2013 and the station's IT management team was unaware it wasn't secure. Following the incident, TEGNA directed all stations to immediately disable all screencasting features and all wired or wireless network connectivity on all monitors located at station facilities.

RATINGS

Who doesn't love watching someone eat 70.5 hot dogs in 10 minutes? **ESPN2's** airing of the Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest recorded 1.62 million average viewers Friday. It was the most-viewed edition of the July Fourth staple in 11 years, also posting a whopping 95% improvement compared to last year's contest. However, that likely has to do with the absence of 17-time champion Joey Chestnut following his ban in 2024 for accepting a sponsorship with Impossible Foods, a competitor to Nathan's. Chestnut's 70.5 hot dogs eaten this year come short of his own record of 76 set back in 2021.

2025 TCA AWARDS NOMINEES

The **Television Critics Association** announced the nominees for the 41st annual TCA Awards, which will recognize the 2024-25 TV season. Leading the pack this year is **Apple TV+**'s hit sci-fi series "Severance" with five nominations, including for Program of the Year and Outstanding Achievement in Drama. The streamer also clinched four nominations for Hollywood-set comedy "The Studio." Psychological crime drama "Adolescence," one of **Netflix's** biggest runaway successes this year, also received four noms, tied not only with "The Studio," but also **HBO Max's** "Hacks" and the masterful (and heart wrenching) new medical drama that caught Sunday night TV viewers by surprise: "The Pitt." **Disney+**'s "Andor" continued to prove "Star Wars" can produce prestige drama, earning three noms, tied with **HBO** docu-comedy "The Rehearsal," whose enigmatic creator and star **Nathan Fielder** also got a nod for Individual Achievement in Comedy. Sully would be proud.

PROGRAMMING

"The Office" was a sitcom concept so good **NBCU** couldn't help but bring it back, this time in the form of "The Paper," which premieres its first four episodes on Sept. 4 on **Peacock**. The mockumentary series takes place inside the newsroom of a fictional Midwestern paper and will see the return of Office veteran *Oscar Nuñez* as know-it-all accountant Oscar Martinez. – **HBO's** long-running comedy series "Curb Your Enthusiasm" may be over, but creator *Larry David* isn't going anywhere. The network has greenlit a six-episode sketch comedy limited series starring and exec produced by David. The comedian is working with the *Obamas'* Higher Ground production company on the show, which looks back on 250 years of American history. – On the same day **HBO Max** made its [triumphant return](#), the streamer unveiled plans for a new spinoff of "The Big Bang Theory." HBO Max handed a series order to "Stuart Fails to Save the Universe." According to the logline, "Comic book store owner Stuart Bloom is tasked with restoring reality after he breaks a device ... accidentally bringing about a multiverse Armageddon." No word on when the show will premiere. – The 17th annual Congressional Women's Softball Game will be available across the country once festivities begin Wednesday at 7pm. **Monumental Sports Network's** full event coverage will be simulcast on **FanDuel Sports Network** and **C-SPAN**, which is planning to air the game live on its flagship channel or **C-SPAN2**, pending Wednesday's congressional schedule. Otherwise, C-SPAN will stream the game live on its digital platforms and have a TV airing to follow.

PEOPLE

Nielsen named *Richard Pacheco* as Head of Global Partnerships. He'll spearhead the ratings company's global partnership strategy, which includes maintaining and establishing new partnerships with ad tech companies and working with Nielsen's corporate development team to identify growth opportunities. Pacheco, who'll report to Chief Product Officer *Akhil Parekh*, most recently oversaw strategic partnerships and business development for the omnichannel ad platform **Mediaocean**.

BASIC CABLE			
P2+ PRIME RANKINGS*			
(06/30/25-07/06/25)			
MON-SUN	MC US AA%	MC US AA (000)	
FNC	0.745	2363	
MSNBC	0.228	722	
HGTV	0.199	632	
CNN	0.166	525	
HALL	0.150	477	
ESPN	0.148	470	
TBSC	0.144	456	
INSP	0.142	449	
FOOD	0.126	399	
USA	0.121	383	
DISC	0.116	367	
FX	0.114	363	
HIST	0.110	350	
TLC	0.107	339	
GSN	0.100	318	
PRMNT	0.096	305	
TVLAND	0.095	300	
ID	0.092	291	
AMC	0.085	269	
A&E	0.084	267	
TNT	0.078	248	
NWSMX	0.077	246	
HALLMYS	0.077	244	
LIFE	0.074	236	
WETV	0.070	222	
SYFY	0.069	219	
OXY	0.066	209	
BET	0.064	202	
FS1	0.059	188	
NAN	0.059	187	
BRAVO	0.058	185	
ADSM	0.054	170	
MLBN	0.053	167	
TUDN	0.051	162	
NATGEO	0.050	160	
TRAVEL	0.050	157	
SDNCE	0.047	151	
IFC TV	0.046	147	
MTV	0.045	144	
COM	0.043	136	
FETV	0.042	134	
MGNLA	0.042	132	
APL	0.039	124	
CNBC	0.038	122	
REELZ	0.038	120	
CMT	0.037	118	
FRFM	0.037	116	

*P2+ L+SD rankers are based on national Nielsen numbers, not coverage.