

CFX Daily will not be publishing Friday, June 19, as we observe Juneteenth. We'll be back Monday, June 22. Stay tuned to [Cablefax.com](https://www.cablefax.com) for breaking news, and check out the CFX Download podcast on [YouTube](#), [Spotify](#) or [Apple Podcasts](#).

DirecTV also objected to the transfers of stations from **Cunningham, HSH, Deerfield** and **Roberts Media to Sinclair Broadcasting** subsidiaries. It lost those as well, with the Media Bureau's Video Division referencing those decisions in the latest rejection. "We find that the Application fully complies with the Two-Station Limit, and DirecTV has failed to provide any transaction-specific arguments that raise a substantial and

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material question of fact sufficient to show that grant of the Application would be prima facie inconsistent with the public interest,” the order said. “The Petition focuses primarily on the retransmission consent harms raised by the proposed combinations. However, just as we found in the Sinclair-Cunningham-Roberts Letter Order and again in the Sinclair-HSH-Cunningham-Deerfield Letter Order that similar concerns were speculative, we reach the same determination here.”

The Bureau didn’t tell DirecTV to knock off the petitions to deny, but there was an underlying tone of exasperation in the order: “And again, as we explained in the Sinclair-Cunningham-Roberts Letter Order, the Commission has found on multiple occasions in the past that issues of broad applicability, such as the effect of common ownership of two top-four stations on the market for retransmission consent, are best handled in a rulemaking of industry-wide effect. We emphasize again that we will not consider such issues in an adjudication involving rule-compliant broadcast television duopolies.”

Rather than identifying public interest harms, the Bureau said it found operational efficiencies from common ownership could benefit viewers as Heritage looks to reinvest those into sustaining and, potentially improving, its local news operations.

DirecTV has been filing broadcast station transfer objections following the Eighth Circuit’s [decision](#) in July 2025 that vacated the Top Four prohibition of the FCC’s broadcast ownership rules. The rule prevented broadcasters from owning two of the top four highest-rated television stations in a single market.

AGS, DIRECTV REJECT NEXSTAR 31 FLAVORS ARGUMENT

DirecTV and a coalition of state attorneys general are pushing back on **Nexstar** and **Tegna**’s attempt to have a federal court limit the preliminary injunction of their combination to just the 31 Tegna Big 4 stations in DMAs that overlap Nexstar Big 4 stations. Nexstar and Tegna are challenging the preliminary injunction, claiming it is overly broad and inflicts unrecoverable harm every day. DirecTV and a coalition of state attorneys general challenged their \$6.2 billion merger in the Ninth Circuit, winning a preliminary injunction in April that requires Nexstar and Tegna to hold their assets separate pending a trial on the merits of claims their merger is unlawful. “Defendants have made no showing as to how the held-separate stations would be operated, who would operate them, whether a transitional services agreement would be necessary to preserve the competitive viability of the held-separate stations, the duration of that agreement and what safeguards would be needed to prevent the exchange of competitive information,” the states said in their answering brief in the Nexstar-Tegna merger challenge before the Ninth Circuit. In its separate brief, DirecTV complained that Nexstar and Tegna never said whether the ultimate remedy would involve specific divestitures of particular stations or a spinoff of stations in just the 31 overlap DMAs as a new standalone broadcaster entity. DirecTV also raised political interference concerns throughout its filing, pointing to President *Trump*’s social media post championing the deal to “knock out the Fake News,” with FCC Chair *Brendan Carr* shortly thereafter endorsing the post on social media. DirecTV noted that the companies closed the deal about 15 minutes after the FCC Media Bureau approved it, expressing gratitude to “President Trump, Chairman Carr, and the DOJ.”

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CHARTER PUTS DATA TO WORK WITH NEW ‘LATIS’ PLATFORM

Charter's newest division, Spectrum Intelligence Ventures, pulled the curtain back on its first household data intelligence platform that taps into the 30 million broadband households and 500 million connected devices within the operator's footprint. It's called Latis, and it's a way for Charter to capitalize on subscriber data while keeping privacy at the top of mind. Latis draws from household-level signals such as digital engagement, TV viewership and connected device activity. However, it doesn't simply sell that data—it turns it into pseudonymized mathematical representations of household activity patterns, which organizations across retail, financial services, media, automotive and other sectors can use to better understand consumer intent and identify trends earlier. Partners using Latis can apply the outputs to their own agentic AI training, media targeting and optimization, personalization and consumer insights. All underlying household data remains within Latis' controlled environment. Currently, Spectrum Intelligence Ventures is picking a limited group of beta program participants. Early users will also work with **Spectrum Reach** to combine Latis with a wider media inventory. Charter plans on making Latis more widely available in 2H26.

ISPS LINE UP TO SUPPORT CUTTING PERMITTING RED TAPE

With the **FCC** to vote next week on a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to [ease permitting](#) headaches in broadband buildouts, there has been a steady stream of ISP execs visiting the Commission this month, along with filings offering feedback. **NCTA**, of course, likes the idea of making it easier for its member cable operators to get shovels in the ground. But it has a few small suggestions for the draft proposal. The main recommendation in its filing this week is that the FCC consider seeking comment on issues raised regarding access to utility easements. "The obstacles that NCTA and others have identified can have severe negative impacts on broadband projects, ranging from delays to abandonment," the association said. Both NCTA and **Optimum** have asked that the draft language be revised to avoid any suggestion that cable franchisees would be ineligible to obtain relief pursuant to any reforms ultimately adopted in this proceeding. **ACA Connects** met with FCC staffers this week to express the organization's strong support of the effort, explaining that its small and medium-sized provider members often face permitting delays, duplicative requirements, excessive fees and other regulatory obstacles when deploying or upgrading networks.

COX JOINS DISH WIRELESS CHALLENGES

More lawsuits for **Dish Wireless** over the lack of payment related to its 5G network. **Cox Communications'** wholesale arm CoxCom filed a heavily redacted amended complaint Wednesday in the U.S. District Court for Colorado over deals Dish Wireless had with CoxCom and subsidiary **Segra** for fiber and transport services for its 5G buildout. Several companies, including **American Tower**, **Zayo** and **Comcast Business**, have sued Dish Wireless after it stopped payments, claiming that a force majeure event was triggered by the sale of certain spectrum licenses by its corporate parent **EchoStar** to **AT&T** and **SpaceX** for approximately \$42 billion following an FCC inquiry into its 5G network buildout.

HBO MAX'S LATEST STREAMING DEAL

Warner Bros. Discovery is looking to get more users to sign up for **HBO Max**'s yearly plans ahead of Sunday's "House of the Dragon" Season 3 debut. Beginning Thursday and available through July 15, new and returning HBO Max subs in the U.S. can get a 40% discount on the platform's different 12-month offerings. That brings Basic With Ads down from \$109.99/year to \$78.99, Standard from \$184.99/year to \$132.99 and Premium from \$229.99/year to \$164.99. It's available to those who subscribe directly to the SVOD, in addition to those who pay through **Prime Video** Channels and **The Roku Channel**. Other existing streaming deals include **Paramount+**'s offer for new and eligible returning subscribers to pay \$0.99/month for their first two months, subject to terms. **YouTube TV** has a deal for folks to get \$67.99/month for their first three months, before returning to the regular \$82.99/month base plan rate. Plus, YouTube TV's Sports Plan is available for \$54.99 for the first year. Both of the vMVPD's options also come with a 10-day free trial. Similarly, **DirecTV** cut its MySports package from \$64.99/month to \$49.99 for the first two months (and a five-day free trial). **Fubo**'s Pro option is running a \$25 discount for the first month (\$58.99), while its Elite offering is taking \$20 off the first month for \$63.99.

CARRIAGE

Charter's getting in on the streaming enhancements, revealing Thursday that Spectrum users can subscribe to **Netflix** through the Spectrum App Store. It's available for folks with or without a Spectrum TV subscription, but for those with a plan that comes with streaming perks, they'd only pay the difference if they want to upgrade from Netflix's ad-supported tier to the ad-free plan.

FIBER FRENZY

WOW! is bringing its fiber network to an additional 20,000 homes and businesses in Florida's Seminole and Orange Counties, with full service expected by the fall. The expansion means WOW! will reach nearly 75,000 addresses in Central Florida. The company has invested more than \$140 million in projects throughout the region since 2022. -- **Zipty Fiber** unveiled plans to build its network in Camano Island, Washington, this summer. The project will reach nearly 5,000 residential and business addresses, building on the 100-address rollout Zipty conducted in June 2024. Construction on the latest expansion will commence over the next several weeks.

RATINGS

You can thank the **World Cup** for making this week's weekly cable ratings look slightly different. While **Fox News**, **ESPN** and **MS Now** took their usual spots in primetime with 2.24 million, 1 million and 992,000 viewers P2+, respectively, **Fox Sports 1** checked in with 958,000 as soccer's global festival kicked off last week. **HGTV** followed with 689,000. FS1 didn't crack the top five in total day (300,000), but its Fox News counterpart topped the list with 1.5 million. MS Now had 633,000 and ESPN posted 586,000, followed by **CNN** (449,000) and **HGTV** (345,000). -- A lot has been said about the World Cup's ratings success so far, but the **NHL's** Stanley Cup Finals had a solid showing on **ABC** as well. This year's edition averaged 5.2 million viewers across six games, the most-watched since 2019 and up 106% compared to 2025. Game 6, which saw the Hurricanes clinch the title, had 5.9 million viewers and a peak of 7.2 million. This season's Stanley Cup Playoffs were **ESPN's** most-viewed ever after averaging 2.2 million viewers across 43 games on ABC, ESPN and **ESPN2**. -- The second-to-last **NASCAR** race on **Prime Video's** schedule this year garnered 1.66 million viewers, though it's worth noting Sunday's racing started two hours early due to weather—not to mention it went up against World Cup action. Prime Video is averaging 2.29 million viewers through four races, up 5% from the same point last year.

GET READY FOR SHARK WEEK

Shark Week is a little over a month away on **Discovery Channel**, and the network plans on releasing 20 original premieres starting July 26 at 8pm. The week-long festivities will begin with "K-Pop Shark Heroes," where actor and comedian *Ken Jeong* will look to fix the perception of sharks across East Asia and the globe. "Air Jaws: Red, White and Beach" will follow that at 9pm, before "Invasion of the Mega Sharks" caps the night at 10pm. Other programming highlights on deck for Shark Week include a look at the prehistoric seas with "Jurassic Sharks" on July 28 at 8pm, "How to Train a Great White" on July 30 at 9pm and "My Strange Shark Addiction" on July 31 at 10pm. The event will end Aug. 1 with "Thresher Shark: Stun to Kill" on Aug. 1 at 9pm.

BASIC CABLE P2+ PRIME RANKINGS*

(06/08/26-06/14/26)

MON-SUN	MC US AA%	MC US AA (000)
FNC	0.694	2233
FS1	0.383	1232
MS NOW	0.303	974
ESPN	0.290	934
HGTV	0.213	685
CNN	0.190	612
HALL	0.161	518
TLC	0.152	490
TBS	0.149	481
HIST	0.133	429
DISC	0.132	425
USA	0.123	396
FOOD	0.114	367
GSN	0.107	345
TV LAND	0.104	333
INSP	0.101	325
ID	0.091	291
A&E	0.090	288
HALLMYS	0.084	270
NAN	0.078	252
LIFE	0.075	242
FX	0.075	242
BRAVO	0.075	241
OXY	0.074	237
TNT	0.073	234
WETV	0.069	221
AMC	0.069	221
REELZ	0.063	203
PRMNT	0.062	201
BET	0.061	195
FRFM	0.059	188
COM	0.057	183
ADSM	0.055	176
MGNLA	0.053	171
FETV	0.052	167
NWSMX	0.050	160
ESPN2	0.050	160
LMN	0.047	152
SYFY	0.045	144
E!	0.045	144
UP	0.041	134
NWSNTN	0.041	132
IFC TV	0.040	128
APL	0.040	128
TRAVEL	0.039	127
FXX	0.039	125

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