

BY THE NUMBERS

According to Ookla, T-Mobile is leading the FWA race in terms of speed. T-Mobile beat its competitors in 2Q26 with a median download speed of 222.7 Mbps, 38.4% higher than AT&T Internet Air and 76% higher than Verizon 5G Home. Similarly, T-Mobile's 2Q26 median upload speed of 18.1 Mbps was 80.1% higher than AT&T and 48.5% higher than Verizon.

CHARTER SUES SCRIPPS OVER RETRANS

Charter is suing **Scripps**, claiming the broadcaster is trying to wiggle out of a contract that would have its carriage rights extend to **Cox** systems it acquired last week.

The suit filed in Nevada District Court on Monday claims that Scripps is calling some language from the companies' retransmission consent deal a "drafting mistake," and that Charter doesn't have a contractual obligation to REDACTED after the Cox-Charter transaction.

Obviously, we don't know what the redacted words are, but it's a safe bet they're related to carriage on Cox under Charter terms given that the suit goes on to say that Charter may be liable for violations of the Copyright Act for unauthorized distribution.

"Scripps's protestations to the contrary, which include threats of litigation, put Charter at risk of potential liability, including under the Copyright Act. Scripps's position creates a justiciable controversy ripe for adjudication and leaves Charter no choice but to file this lawsuit and seek court intervention," Charter told the court.

Scripps did not offer comment by deadline. Charter responded by saying it has no plans to change carriage of KMCC: "Our customers can continue to watch the Vegas Golden Knights, Las Vegas Aces and other programming available on the station. Spectrum has a long-term agreement with E.W. Scripps that includes carriage of all their broadcast stations in our markets, including KMCC, and we are continuing to abide by that existing agreement."

The broadcast group operates KMCC, an independent affiliate station in Las Vegas, that has exclusive rights to games from **WNBA's** Las Vegas Aces and the **NHL's** Golden Knights that aren't nationally televised.

Scripps first warned Charter on June 22 that it wouldn't have the right to carry KMCC after the Charter-Cox transaction, according to the heavily redacted lawsuit. Charter responded on Aug. 14 in a letter that's redacted, natch. Scripps fired back on Aug. 18, two days before the merger closed, saying it disagrees with Charter's position. A final redacted letter from Scripps was sent to Charter the morning of Aug. 20, the day it closed its \$34.5 billion merger with Cox Communications.

Per the lawsuit, Charter's original retransmission consent deal with Scripps dates back to 2016 and was struck by **Time Warner Cable** (TWC). Charter assumed the deal after it acquired TWC in May 2016. That original contract listed all Scripps-owned broadcast stations that had elected retransmission consent, regardless of whether those stations were in the operator's footprint as of the effective date. Charter and Scripps have amended the agreement three times since, most recently in 2025.

ION Media purchased KMCC from **Entravision** in 2020 for an undisclosed price. In 2021, Scripps completed its \$2.65 billion acquisition of **ION**. At the time of the acquisition, all

of ION's stations were retransmitted under "must-carry" rules. That meant KMCC and other ION stations didn't fall under the Charter retransmission agreement. Instead, the distributor was required to carry and retransmit the ION signals. However, Scripps informed Charter that some of ION stations had elected retransmission consent status ahead of the 2024-26 election cycle, and a new ION agreement was executed in April 2025. At the same time the ION Carriage Agreement was entered, Charter and Scripps entered Amendment 3 of their retransmission deal and it sounds like some of the ION channels were added to the list of stations Charter could retransmit (again... we're reading between the redactions).

Scripps has been involved in a few retrans skirmishes of late, a sign it's likely looking for bigger fees and to monetize its increasing sports rights portfolio. Comcast and Scripps were in a five-week-long carriage spat that ended May 5. Then **DirectTV** started June without Scripps stations. It took until July 10 for the two to agree to a new deal covering 54 stations across 36 **Nielsen** DMAs.

PSKY-WBD FIGHT GOES TO SUPREME COURT

Two red states are escalating the **Paramount Skydance-Warner Bros. Discovery** merger fight to the **U.S. Supreme Court**. Iowa AG *Brenna Bird* and Montana AG *Austin Knudsen* filed paperwork late Tuesday night asking SCOTUS to intervene in an antitrust lawsuit brought by a coalition of 12 Dem states to halt the \$110 billion mega-merger. Montana and Iowa argued that the state challenge led by California AG *Rob Bonta* is a "partisan enforcement action," calling the resulting costs of the lawsuit on PSKY and WBD "staggering." "Two large businesses are paralyzed, unable to plan, invest, or take any strategic action because they do not know whether they will be one company or two next year," read the filing. The antitrust trial is scheduled to start in March, at which point PSKY will owe WBD shareholders a ticking fee of approximately \$1.3 billion because it failed to close the deal before Oct. 1. Montana and Iowa are asking SCOTUS to respond to their complaint by Sept. 15, two weeks before the ticking fee will go into effect. "If California believes a transaction that 68 regulators approved is nevertheless illegal, it is free to make that argument. But it should make it in the one court with the authority to bind all of us, and it should make it now, before the bill for the delay comes due," Bird wrote in an op-ed Tuesday before the SCOTUS filing.

FCC CLEARS PEG CAPTIONING PAPERWORK

Cable operators were likely happy to see a new **FCC** order that exempts programmers that supply content exclusively to public, educational and governmental access (PEG) channels or nonbroadcast networks from individually registering and certifying captioning compliance, provided that the channel administrator or network has filed that on a channel-wide basis. The order, released Wednesday, puts an end to a years-long push from the industry and also removes the requirement that operators should use "best efforts" to obtain caption quality certifications from programmers—an item that's been in implementation limbo since those rules were adopted in 2016. However, substantive captioning standards remain unchanged, as do caption quality requirements. The Commission framed the move as part of its Delete, Delete, Delete campaign, estimating that roughly 290,000 programmers will collectively save about \$2.43 million per year.

CFX Daily (ISSN 1069-6644) is published daily by Access Intelligence, LLC.
cablefax.com

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\$1,999.00/yr

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DAZN KEEPS DEALING WITH EVERPASS ACQUISITION

DAZN's push in the U.S. took a different step Wednesday. It announced the acquisition of **EverPass Media**, which will be renamed **DAZN for Business** as the company assumes control of a media and technology platform used in bars, restaurants, hotels and other commercial venues across the globe to broadcast live sports. EverPass is the commercial rights holder for **NFL Sunday Ticket** and recently renewed an agreement with **DirecTV** to continue distributing the offering via satellite and streaming. EverPass also holds distribution partnerships with **ESPN**, **Peacock**, **Netflix**, **Paramount** and **Apple**. DAZN CEO *Shay Segev* said the purchase allows the company to serve sports fans beyond the DTC app experience. "DAZN can now serve every type of customer in the U.S.—from individual sports fans using the DAZN app to commercial venues looking to provide the best possible viewing experience for their customers," he said. With the move, EverPass CEO *Alex Kaplan* will stay put and expand his role within DAZN. It also means **RedBird Capital**—one of the firms behind **Paramount Skydance's** bid to get **Warner Bros. Discovery—32 Equity** and **TKO Group Holdings** will become minority shareholders in DAZN. -- Speaking of DAZN deals, its new subsidiary **ViewLift** struck a deal with the **NHL's** **Predators** to build a DTC streaming service. The imminent app will offer fans access to live games, on-demand replays and other programming. It also brings ViewLift's total partnership count to 18 professional teams and six RSNs.

DOLLY'S LEGACY REMEMBERED BEYOND MUSIC

It's rare to see unanimous grief following the death of a celebrity, but it was on display Tuesday as many remembered the life of country music icon *Dolly Parton*. However, she was honored for more than her music, having created the Dollywood Foundation and subsequently the Imagination Library literacy program, which recently celebrated 30 years and currently distributes more than 3 million books to children around the world for free each month. The Imagination Library is an initiative that the **Fiber Broadband Association** partnered with in June 2025 to encourage its 600+ members to help expand the program's reach. FBA President/CEO *Gary Bolton* paid tribute to Parton on **LinkedIn**, saying the association has been "incredibly proud" to work with the Imagination Library. "Our organizations share a fundamental belief that connecting people to opportunity can transform lives and strengthen communities. Whether that connection comes through a book placed in a child's hands or fiber broadband connecting a family to the world, it creates possibilities for a brighter future," Bolton [wrote](#). On top of music and philanthropy, Parton made more than 400 appearances on TV and starred in a dozen films. Her first time on TV came in 1956 on the "Cas Walker Farm and Home Hour" show, which was later followed by a theatrical debut in the 1980 film "9 to 5." It'll be bittersweet to tumble out of bed, stumble to the kitchen and pour ourselves a cup of ambition, but we'll do our best.

SLING-ING COLLEGE FOOTBALL NIL DEALS

With college football's unofficial opening weekend coming up, **Sling TV** is looking to get its name out there—or should we say its name, image and likeness (NIL). The company revealed a nationwide NIL campaign featuring nine college football players, with a focus on Sling's one-day, three-day and seven-day subscription passes, in addition to its monthly subscription options and a season-long offering. It's Sling's largest NIL campaign yet and includes a handful of Heisman Trophy hopefuls, such as quarterbacks *Darian Mensah* (U Miami) and *LaNorris Sellers* (South Carolina). Other athletes part of the campaign: *Kevin Jennings* (SMU), *Beau Pribula* (Virginia), *Bear Bachmeier* (BYU), *Kenny Minchey* (Kentucky), *Faizon Brandon* (Tennessee) and *Peyton* and *Eli Bowen* (Oklahoma).

NWSL SWAPS VICTORY+ FOR ROKU

With **Victory+** facing financial difficulties and dropping its **NWSL** rights package, the league responded with an updated agreement with **Roku** and **The Roku Channel**. The first part of the deal will see eight Sunday night games streamed on the free Roku Sports Channel throughout the remainder of the 2026 campaign, starting with Sunday's clash between the Seattle Reign and Houston Dash. The package will expand to 25 Sunday Night matches when the 2027 season rolls around. Roku and the NWSL have worked together before, with the former [launching](#) a league-branded NWSL Zone back in March 2025.

CARRIAGE

The 2026-27 college sports calendar is already underway, and **Fubo** is celebrating by adding two new networks. **ACC Network Extra** and **SEC Network+** are joining the vMVPD at no added cost, meaning fans with an English-language plan will have access to over 2,500 live events throughout the various seasons, including football, basketball, baseball, volleyball and more. The news arrives as college football kicks off a new season this weekend. And for those keeping score, both ACC Network Extra and SEC Network+ are also available on **Hulu + Live TV**. -- FAST channel operator **Swerve TV** signed a multiyear partnership with the kickboxing organization Glory. Under the deal, **Swerve Combat** will stream Glory's 109 SuperFight Series, as well as previous events, fights and compilation specials that are part of Glory's existing library. Swerve TV's channels are available on 25+ distributors, including **Prime Video**, **Fubo**, **Pluto TV** and **Xumo Play**.

FIBER FRENZY

Mediacom is getting ready to put the finishing touches on a pair of broadband buildouts in Indiana. The operator announced plans to build more than 30 miles of last-mile fiber infrastructure to help bring FTTH service to nearly 400 homes and businesses in Rome City and Wolcottville. Mediacom, which is working with the Indiana Broadband Office on the \$2.4 million buildouts, expects to finish construction within the next 24 months. Once complete, customers in the two areas will have access to up to 5 Gig internet speeds and **Mediacom Mobile**. -- California's **Race Communications** is expanding its FTTH network to the city of Dinuba. The operator expects to get the project underway this Fall and ultimately connect around 4,000 homes and businesses. Race is in the midst of a [\\$200 million expansion initiative](#) throughout California and has overall put forth more than \$650 million toward fiber infrastructure deployments.

RATINGS

IndyCar took over D.C. this weekend for the Freedom 250 GP, and the telecast brought 3.28 million viewers to **Fox** and **Fox Sports** platforms. That's good for the most-watched race in nearly two decades (barring the Indianapolis 500) and helped Fox's average IndyCar viewership reach 1.88 million viewers through 15 events, up 32% YOY and 70% compared to the same point in 2024. -- One night prior, Fox's Saturday Baseball matchup between the Dodgers and Pirates reeled in 3.08 million viewers, the most-watched **MLB** telecast of the week on any network.

OBITUARY

Industry veteran *Angie Britt* passed away Aug. 17. She was 68. After a career translating technology as a marketer at **GI** and **Motorola**, she joined **CTAM** in 2008, serving most recently as SVP, Advanced Products. A passionate techie, for years she helped CTAM lead curated tours for technology and media executives at the mammoth tech show **CES**. She also spearheaded the development and deployment of TV Everywhere. Britt is survived by her husband, *Charles Timothy Britt*; brother, *John Branham* (Cheryl); niece, *Anna Sutton* (Chris); and nephew, *Ben Branham* (Ashley). The family [asks](#) that in lieu of flowers, memorials be made to the ASPCA of your choice.

PEOPLE

Adele Hixon-Day was named **C-SPAN**'s first-ever Chief Development Officer, a role that'll have her oversee philanthropic strategy as the public affairs network looks to grow its foundation of support beyond license fees from cable, satellite and streaming distributors. Hixon-Day will be tasked with establishing relationships with foundations, donors and individual supporters, in addition to driving support for C-SPAN's operations across journalism, civic education, digital migration and video archive modernization. She arrives with more than 15 years of experience in fundraising and organizational leadership, having been the Smithsonian Institution's Chief Advancement Officer from 2022-25 and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's VP, Development for the 3.5 years prior. -- *Sean Piche* is joining **CuriosityStream** as CFO, effective Sept. 1, reporting to CEO *Clint Stinchcomb*. His hiring comes after the company's record 2Q26 financials that included revenue of \$23.2 million (+22% YOY). Piche spent time at **Viacom** and **NBCU** before moving to **Ernst & Young**'s Financial Accounting Advisory Services, where he advised media and entertainment companies for a decade. Most recently, he provided CFO services to growth-stage companies, leading finance operations, supporting the development of new revenue streams and arranging financing to support strategic growth initiatives.