CFX DAILY
WHAT THE INDUSTRY READS FIRST

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REDZONE 300

Football Sunday's mainstay NFL RedZone celebrated its 300th episode yesterday. It first premiered on Sept. 13, 2009, and has since broadcast more than 2,000 hours of NFL action. Other tidbits: RedZone showed 17,800 total touchdowns heading into this week's action, and it's featured more than 8,800 players—40 of whom eventually became Hall of Famers.

DISNEY, DISH TALK SLING SUIT SETTLEMENT

Sling's flexible streaming passes may have gone away, but **Disney**'s lawsuit over the offering still stands—for now.

The suit, filed in August 2025, was stayed while **Dish**'s bankruptcy proceeding was underway. Now that Dish has emerged from Chapter 11, the parties asked the court last week for a 30-day extension of the stay because "settlement discussions are currently in progress." A judge had not issued a ruling as of ***CFX***'s deadline, and neither Dish nor Disney offered any comments on the status of talks.

The request comes after Sling announced Oct. 2 that it would no longer offer its day, weekend and week-long subscription passes. No explanation was given for their discontinuation, which came in the middle of college football and **NFL** seasons. A Dish spokesperson said the offerings were built to give customers ultimate control over entertainment, and while no longer available, Sling looks "forward to continuing to innovate and showing our customers new ways to experience the content they love."

Disney claimed the Sling passes violated the terms of its existing license agreement with Dish, which filed its own counterclaims that accused Disney of illegally tying its must-have networks to less popular ones in violation of the Sherman Act and the New York Donnelly Act. It also alleged that Disney's acquisition of **Fubo** substantially lessened competition by allowing Disney to provide the skinny sports bundles that it prohibits others from offering and that it has attempted to monopolize the downstream skinny sports bundle market by banning other MVPDs from offering similar packages. **Warner Bros. Discovery** filed a similar lawsuit against Dish, but quietly dropped it in April.

As for the bankruptcy proceeding, Dish DBS Corp., Dish Network, Sling TV entities and others filed a prepackaged Chapter 11 in federal court in Houston on June 30, with the plan taking effect on Oct. 1. Under the plan, Dish assumed Disney programming agreements. It was required to pay Disney the most of any programmer, $267.4 million.

For Disney, the confirmation order is notable for what it preserves. Getting paid did not waive any of its other claims, defaults or audit rights, and disputes under programming contracts go to the forum each contract specifies, not the bankruptcy court.

Dish's restructuring was largely negotiated in advance, with a group of creditors signing a support agreement in March. The case centered on Dish's debt, with programming contracts assumed rather than rejected.

It's been a different road for the **Dish Wireless** bankruptcy proceeding. The companies said in late August that they would split the plans, and the Dish Wireless cases remain pending. While the case began at the same time as Dish DBS's, it is taking longer, with tower companies pressing their $7.6 billion in claims against the company.

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NETFLIX SHAKEUPS AHEAD OF EARNINGS CHECK-IN

There have been a few high-profile departures at **Netflix** lately. After nearly a decade with the streamer as Head of Global TV then Chief Content Officer, *Bela Bajaria* left her role last week. Netflix named *Peter Rice* as Bajaria's replacement starting next Monday. "She led enormous changes at Netflix. She helped broaden our content offering to include the large-scale expansion of unscripted programming and the launches of live events and sports, in addition to crafting and running a world-class, global slate of films and series. I'm incredibly grateful for everything she's done to help Netflix entertain the world," said co-CEO *Ted Sarandos*. Rice will oversee Netflix's global content group, scripted and unscripted series, film, live events and more across all regions. He most recently spent time at **Disney** as Chair of Walt Disney Television and General Entertainment, managing **ABC**, **Fox**, **ABC News** and more and having shows like "The Simpsons," "American Idol" and "Modern Family" under his purview. In addition to Disney, Rice spent time at **21st Century Fox** as President and **Fox Networks Group** as CEO. However, Bajaria isn't the only exec departure—*Dan Lin* is out as Head of Film. A replacement has yet to be named, but the corporate restructuring is sure to come up during Netflix's 3Q26 earnings call Tuesday afternoon.

EARTHLINK RIDES THE WAVE

WaveDivision Capital, a broadband-focused private equity group led by longtime exec *Steve Weed*, is partnering with firms **The Pritzker Organization** and **Stephens Capital Partners** to acquire **EarthLink**. Based in Atlanta, EarthLink currently holds more than 500,000 internet and managed services customers nationwide and says it can bring fiber internet to more than 68 million homes. The operator was created in 1994 and has been owned by **Trive Capital** since early 2019. Other terms of the transaction weren't disclosed.

FIBER FRENZY

TDS Telecommunications finished its FTTH project in Dodgeville, Wisconsin, growing to more than 2,500 addresses in the area. Residential customers can get up to 8 Gig speeds, while businesses can get up to 10 Gigs. Construction began in 2023.

RATINGS

Game 4 of the Brewers vs Dodgers' NLCS battle didn't stop the Broncos vs Seahawks' Thursday Night Football stream from averaging 16.26 million viewers on **Prime Video**. That makes the **Amazon**-owned streamer's season average 17.29 million through five games, up 9% against the same point last season. -- Speaking of which, **Fox** and **Fox Sports 1** averaged 7.53 million viewers throughout the Brewers-Dodgers series. Milwaukee's four-game sweep was the best average viewership for an ALCS or NLCS since 2015. FS1 and **Fox Deportes** posted 6.36 million viewers for the series-clinching telecast, the most-watched Game 4 on any network since 2018.

PROGRAMMING

Hulu is set to re-open "The X-Files," giving a revival series a full season order starring a new FBI duo played by *Danielle Deadwyler* and *Himesh Patel*. – **HGTV** is launching a new Christmas-themed competition show called "Big Bargain

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cablefax.com

EDITORIAL
Editor
Noah Ziegler, 301.354.1704, nziegler@accessintel.com

Senior Editor
John Saavedra, 908.477.1758 jsaavedra@accessintel.com

Editorial Director
Amy Maclean, 301.354.1760, amaclean@accessintel.com

Editorial Director, Ad Tech & Convergent Media
Sarah Sluis, 212.621.4706, ssluis@accessintel.com

ADVERTISING/BUSINESS
Chief Revenue Officer
Dave Colford, dcolford@accessintel.com

VP Ad Tech/Convergent Media
Gordon Plutsky, gplutsky@accessintel.com

Advertising and Sponsorship
Vernesa Merdanovic, vmerdanovic@accessintel.com

MARKETING
Senior Marketing Director
Jessica Dombrowski, jdombrowski@accessintel.com

PRODUCTION/CLIENT SERVICES
Sr Production Manager:
Joann Fato, jfato@accessintel.com

Group Subs: Kelly Mahoney, kmahoney@accessintel.com

Subscription Questions:
Client Services: 301.354.2101, clientservices@accessintel.com | Annual subscription price: $1,999.00/yr

Access Intelligence, LLC,
9211 Corporate Blvd., 4th Floor, Rockville, MD 20850

Holiday Showdown" on Nov. 10 at 9pm. Two teams will battle it out to prove who has the most holiday spirit without blowing their shoestring budget. – As if we needed any more proof of just how big the creator industry has grown, "Saturday Night Live" has set its very first online content creator host. Popular internet personality *Drew Desbordes*, better known to your kids as "Druski," will host the program on Nov. 7.

PEOPLE

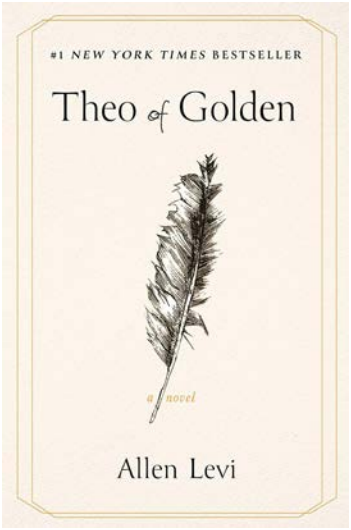
Mediacom tapped *Conner Clyde* as Group VP, Strategic Insights & Analytics. He'll oversee a new enterprise-wide operation that combines competitive, customer, market and financial analysis to support the operator's strategy, pricing and investment decisions. Clyde, who will report to CFO *Jack Griffin*, joins from **Comcast**, where he held a variety of marketing, sales, customer analytics, forecasting and enterprise strategy roles. -- **Fox Corp.** announced that *Adam Ciongoli* will not be renewing his contract and will step down from his role as Chief Legal and Policy Officer on Dec. 1. *Nicholas Trutanich*, currently EVP, Principal Deputy General Counsel, will become General Counsel of the company effective Dec. 1, reporting to Executive Chair and CEO *Lachlan Murdoch*. Ciongoli joined Fox in 2023 from Campbell Soup Company. He'll serve as a special advisor to the company through June 2028. As part of the transition, Fox also announced that *Kristopher Jones*, EVP and Head of Government Relations, will report directly to President, COO *John Nallen*, effective December 1.

In The WILD

A CFX feature highlighting industry doings spotted in the real world.

Great American Book Club

Great American Family launched a new initiative earlier this year, introducing a monthly book club series that gathers viewers together alongside company leaders in a virtual setting. This month, CFX's Sr. Production Manager Joann Fato checked things out and had some takeaways from her first time participating.



While binge-watching Christmas movies over the summer on the various channels that showed them, I saw a commercial on Great American Family about a book club that they do each month. Last month, I went to their website to check it out. The book they were reading was "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi.

I looked up reviews of the book and saw many positive comments, but when I tried to get it at my local library, there was a wait list with 1,195 people ahead of me. So, I went ahead and purchased it. Once I started reading it, I got hooked! It was an excellent book that I would highly recommend to all who love to read.



Joining the monthly meeting was simple, since the Great American Book Club site has the logistics readily available. The Zoom meeting, held on October 1, was led by Great American Media President & CEO Bill Abbott and Programming & Development Manager Sabrina Novacov. It was a lively discussion with great participation from those in the chat, centering primarily on the book's themes of generosity, kindness and belonging. I really enjoyed it—and look forward to participating again sometime in the near future.

After the discussion, they set up a game in Kahoot to quiz participants with multiple-choice questions. It was exciting (even though I didn't win), but overall, the best part is that the book club got me to read again. I haven't read a book for fun in a very long time, so it awakened that curious part of me. Big win!

– Joann Fato