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Atlantic Broadband, the cable operator serving Miami's beach communities, has added the Pasioness and Televisión Dominicana networks to its roster of channels in that market. With the additions, subscribers to Cogeco Cable subsidiary Atlantic Broadband now have access to Hemisphere Media Group's entire suite of channels, including Centroamérica TV, Cinelatino and WAPA América.

Customers must subscribe to the "Mundo Latino Basico" package in order to view the two newly added networks. Programming on Pasioness (channel 207) is focused on telenovelas and serialized dramas; Televisión Dominicana (channel 248) is a general entertainment network for Dominicans living in the U.S. "Our networks are ideally-suited to meet the growing needs of Hispanics in Atlantic Broadband's South Florida footprint, and we are thrilled to work with them on this exciting launch," Hemisphere Media Group president and CEO Alan Sokol said.

The addition of Pasioness and Televisión Dominicana comes following the mid-December arrival of former People en Español publisher Lucia Ballas-Traynor as Hemisphere's executive vice president of advertising sales. Ballas-Traynor's TV experience includes prior stints as GM for Galavisión and Viacom International Media Networks' MTV Tr3s prior to its U.S. Hispanic dissolution. — **Multichannel News**

Verizon Communication Inc.'s wireless business may no longer be the red-hot growth engine it once was. In the fourth quarter, Verizon added 1.52 million new postpaid connections, but that is 23.5% fewer than a year earlier. And while it was able to nudge wireless operating revenue up 1.2%, that growth was down from the 11% rate clocked in the last three months of 2014.

Verizon attributed some of the lackluster growth to the absence of a major iPhone upgrade last year. It said some of the revenue slowdown is related to how customers pay carriers for their smartphones. Carriers charge less now for monthly wireless service but no longer subsidize phone purchases. The slowing growth rates also reflect the maturity of the U.S. wireless market. After five years of annual revenue growth rates in excess of 5% for the wireless industry, according to UBS, times may be changing. Now, there are more active cellphones than people, and 84% of Verizon's customers have smartphones. "Wireless is still growing—the growth has just slowed," said Verizon Chief Financial Officer Fran Shammo in an interview. He said that wireless operating revenue rose despite having 1.9 million fewer gross additions and upgrades in 2015 than in 2014. Wireless profit margins also jumped to

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28.6% from 23.5% in the year ago period.

Verizon said it has been focused on protecting its existing customers from leaving, and reduced its postpaid monthly cancellation rate, or churn, to 0.96%, compared with 1.14% a year ago. Verizon shares rose nearly 3.3% Thursday, as the carrier's results were generally in line with Wall Street forecasts. The results are still considered strong in an industry battered by intense competition. Most of the carrier's net postpaid additions were tablets—only 449,000 of the 1.52 million net additions were phone customers. That compares with 917,000 postpaid phone customers T-Mobile US Inc. said it netted in the quarter. AT&T Inc. and Sprint Corp. report next week.

Mr. Shammo said he believes the company will continue to post positive net phone additions each quarter, albeit at a smaller clip, and noted that there are other ways to drive revenue growth. Verizon has invested heavily in new business areas such as digital advertising and video. Last year, the carrier acquired AOL to help establish a digital advertising business, and it launched a mobile video app called go90. It is also developing technology platforms for new machine-related businesses—for instance, a chip consumers can plug into their cars to connect them to the Internet.

The carrier already has forecast that 2016 will be a tough year. In September, Verizon said earnings would “plateau” this year, in part because it is in the process of selling profitable landline television and high-speed Internet businesses in three states to Frontier Communications Corp., but also because of the heavy investments it is making in new services such as go90. “As with most startup businesses, you have very large losses in the beginning until you can grow the customer bases and start to generate to profitability,” Mr. Shammo said on a call with analysts.

Mr. Shammo said he doesn't think go90 will turn a profit for at least a few years, and added the company is currently focusing on establishing viewership for the service. Since its launch in October, there have been more than 2 million downloads of the video app, but the company didn't say how many of those are active users. Its business around connectivity for machines—like cars and industrial equipment—generated \$690 million in revenue in 2015, an 18% increase from 2014.

Meantime, customer additions in Verizon's high-speed Internet and television business, called Fios, are also slowing. Verizon added a net 99,000 Internet customers in the quarter, a 32% drop a year earlier and fewer than it added in the previous quarter. It added 20,000 video customers, representing an 83% slide from the prior year and less than half what it added in the third quarter. Mr. Shammo attributed the Fios slowdown to the absence of any new markets openings which bring a boost of new customers, and to a fight for market share with cable companies over subscribers in its existing markets. In all, Verizon posted \$34.3 billion in revenue for the quarter, up 3.2% from a year ago, and a quarterly profit of \$5.4 billion compared with a \$2.2 billion loss for the quarter in 2014. — **Wall Street Journal**

The six-way race for the Democratic nomination for Pennsylvania attorney general went down slightly after two candidates dropped out this week. The race may have thinned more, too, over the weekend if the state Democratic Party did not cancel its winter meeting in Hershey due to the forecasted snow.

The meeting is when party representatives pick their preferred candidate for statewide elections. As a result, some candidates tend to drop out. The meeting has not been re-scheduled. The two candidates who dropped out on Wednesday were: Jack Stollsteimer, a former assistant U.S. attorney from Delaware County, and Dave Fawcett, an Allegheny County lawyer.

The field now includes: Northampton County District Attorney John Morganelli, Allegheny County District Attorney Stephen Zappala, Montgomery County Commissioner Josh Shapiro and incumbent Attorney General Kathleen Kane.

Normally, the incumbent would be listed first. But Kane could be out of a job before the primary election if the state Senate, upon a two-thirds majority, votes her out of office and Gov. Tom Wolf signs the ouster notice. The pending Senate vote is over Kane's indefinite law license suspension, which Kane is trying to get back through the Supreme Court. The winner of the April 26 primary will take on the lone Republican candidate, state Sen. John Rafferty, in the Nov. 8 general election. – **Allentown Morning Call**



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