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Reuters
Telecom industry, led by AT&T, seeks to block new Internet rules

Denver Post
Cable groups test cheaper TV bundles on millenials

Philadelphia Business Journal
VoIP pioneer Jeff Pulver fears FCC will stifle Internet innovation (Video)

Wall Street Journal
YouTube Touts Influence While Casting Doubt on TV's Future

Fox Business
Verizon Strikes Deal With Internet Rival Cogent

Politico
Hillary Clinton courts Silicon Valley

Comcast Corp. on Monday reported better-than-expected profit and revenue growth in its first quarter, as its broadband division logged its strongest revenue growth in more than four years. Shares gained 2.4% in premarket trading as the company also announced it will spend another $2.5 billion buying back shares this year. Last month, Comcast walked away from plans to acquire Time Warner Cable Inc., as increasing pressure from regulators prompted the end of the $45.2 billion deal. The deal had promised to reshape the media landscape-forcing TV channel-owners and other pay-TV operators to contemplate their own mergers. Companies across the industry are now reassessing their calculations in the wake of its failure.

For the quarter ended March 31, Comcast reported a profit of $2.06 billion, or 81 cents a share, up from $1.87 billion, or 71 cents a share, a year earlier. Excluding items, adjusted profit was 79 cents a share. Revenue grew 2.6% to $17.9 billion. Analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters projected a per-share profit of 74 cents on $17.4 billion in revenue.

In the latest quarter, the company showed improvements in its broadband subscriber results, adding 407,000 subscribers compared with additions of 383,000 a year ago. Comcast said the results were its best in two years. But the company lost 8,000 video subscribers, compared with additions of 24,000 a year ago. Voice subscriber additions slowed to 77,000 from 142,000 additions a year ago.

Comcast saw its broadband revenue grow 10.7%, while voice revenue fell 1.5%. Business

Los Angeles Times
Editorial: Verizon picks a fight with ESPN over unbundled cable TV

Philadelphia Inquirer
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Pittsburgh Tribune-Review
All eyes are on Risa Vetri Ferman in Kathlen Kane case

Allentown Morning Call
Sen. Browne, under investigation for possible DUI crash, in hospital with 'considerable injuries'

services revenue jumped 21.4%. Overall, at the company's cable business, which accounts for the bulk of the top line, revenue grew 6.3% to $11.4 billion. Total revenue at NBCUniversal fell 4% to $6.6 billion. Excluding last year's Olympics and this year's Super Bowl, revenue would have been up 7.9%. Comcast also said Monday that it plans to repurchase an additional $2.5 billion in stock during 2015, bringing its total 2015 share-buyback plan to $6.75 billion. – ***Wall Street Journal;*** **more from *Associated Press***

Top executives close to Charter Communications Inc. have begun reaching out to Time Warner Cable Inc.'s management to discuss a possible merger of the cable operators. And they have a clear message: This time, we want to play nice.

Cable pioneer John Malone—the chairman of Charter's largest shareholder, Liberty Broadband Corp. —called Time Warner Cable Chief Executive Rob Marcus in recent days to express Charter's interest in pursuing friendly deal talks, people familiar with the matter said. That is in contrast to the unsuccessful hostile takeover Charter sought last year. The call from Mr. Malone came after Comcast Corp. , the largest U.S. cable company, recently walked away from a planned merger with TWC amid stiff regulatory resistance. Charter had actually made contact with TWC even earlier. The evening before Comcast officially said it was dropping the deal, Charter Chairman Eric Zinterhofer had dinner with Mr. Marcus, people familiar with the meeting said.

Charter, the fourth-largest U.S. cable operator, has been laying the groundwork for making an offer to No. 2 competitor Time Warner Cable. The two sides will continue talking this week, when Charter Chief Executive Tom Rutledge and Mr. Marcus are set to meet at the annual National Cable & Telecommunications Association convention in Chicago, the people said. The NCTA's show, which kicks off Monday, is normally a venue for companies to show off the latest technology in cable television or broadband. But this year, the cable-consolidation drama is likely to take center stage. News of the forthcoming Rutledge-Marcus meeting was reported earlier by CNBC.

Already, the tone of Charter's approach is markedly different from its takeover effort in 2013 and early 2014, which culminated in Charter making a hostile bid and nominating a slate of directors to replace the TWC board. That effort failed, as Comcast emerged as a bidder and struck its ill-fated deal with TWC. People close to Charter have made clear that the company doesn't want to make the mistake again of lowballing a bid. They also said that Charter is aware that it will have to offer a significant portion of its bid in cash to satisfy Time Warner Cable's concerns about whether Charter stock is overvalued on deal speculation.

Time Warner Cable's improving operations could complicate Charter's bid. The last time TWC was under takeover pressure, it was bleeding subscribers. But this past week, the company reported its first video-customer growth in a quarter since 2009, even as Charter reported a surprise video-customer loss. To make matters more complex, the companies are already jockeying for advantage by courting Bright House Networks LLC, a smaller operator serving about two million customers. The Wall Street Journal reported on Thursday that Charter and TWC had separately held preliminary talks with Bright House about an acquisition. For each, reaching a deal to acquire Bright House could place it in a better bargaining position with the other company.

Some observers said the situation was more akin to a love triangle than a war between Charter and Time Warner Cable over Bright House. People familiar with Charter's thinking said the company believes the best option would be for Time Warner Cable, Charter and Bright House to reach a deal together. Time Warner Cable is open to entertaining any deal talks, people familiar with TWC's thinking said, with the goal being that any deal reached would maximize shareholder value. But after federal regulators' resistance to the Comcast-TWC merger, it remains a question how they would view a three-way deal to create another cable giant, some people close to the deal talks said. A combined Time Warner Cable-Charter-Bright House would serve about 24 million business and residential customers, in striking distance of Comcast's roughly 27 million.

At least for now, Charter doesn't appear deterred. On a Friday first-quarter earnings conference call, Charter's Mr. Rutledge said, "I think every company is different, every transaction is different, and they're really independent structural questions from a regulatory perspective." – ***Wall Street Journal***

For some boxing fans, the big fight Saturday night turned out to be between them and their programming provider. Strong pay-per-view demand for the Floyd Mayweather-Manny Pacquiao fight, in Las Vegas, caused problems for cable and satellite systems — especially when people tried to order as the card was beginning. System outages were widespread, and that led to the start of the fight being delayed about 45 minutes to try to get more people tuned in. But still many trying to watch were in the dark when the bout began.

Charter Communications, the largest provider of subscription pay-television service in the St. Louis market, was one of the affected systems. Its outage included many channels other than the fight channel. Service reportedly was out from approximately 8 p.m., when the undercard telecasts began, until about 11:30 p.m. — well into the bout. Attempts Sunday to reach multiple Charter representatives were unsuccessful, but agents who answered the company's customer service phone line said refunds will be given to affected customers who request one. The line was called twice, with the same response both times. Residences were charged about $100 for the high-definition feed.

A Charter customer in Pevely, Jared Kraus, was watching the scintillating Game 7 of the NBA playoff series between the Los Angeles Clippers and San Antonio Spurs when the screen froze and went blank. Later in the night, he had a few friends coming over to watch the boxing match. "Cable's out. Missing a ridiculous game 7 and can't order the fight. Sad faces all around," Kraus tweeted. "This has happened before, of course, but it usually returns to form within the hour," Kraus later told The Associated Press. "Not this time. I waited and waited and finally realized it wasn't coming back any time soon."

The fight watching was moved to his uncle's house and the cable eventually came back, but "by then I had missed one of the greatest playoff games of all time and the fight was almost to its end." Customers of other providers across the country, including Time Warner, DirecTV and Comcast, also reported service problems. There was no immediate word on how many people were affected locally and nationally, and how the mess will affect the bottom line for the fighters.

Mayweather reportedly was guaranteed $120 million, Pacquiao $80 million, with additional payouts based on the money the fight generated. The purse originally was predicted to be about $300 million, with records expected to be shattered for the number of pay-per-view sales of an event as well as for gross revenue. It's another sting to the reputation of an industry that's already beset with criticism over poor service and competition from streaming video providers. Some boxing fans circumvented cable companies entirely, watching the fight live on video-streaming apps such as Meerkat and Twitter's Periscope, which let users broadcast video directly to the Internet from their smartphones. – ***St. Louis Post-Dispatch***

Cablevision Systems Corp. said its revenue edged 2.5% higher in the first quarter, though subscriber numbers fell across all of its cable segments compared with a year ago. Cablevision has been aggressively targeting viewers who are looking to "cut the cord" or who enjoy online video services. It became the first pay-television provider to say it will offer HBO's stand-alone streaming service HBO Now. The company reached a deal in April with streaming video service Hulu to offer the service's catalog of on-demand shows and movies to its customers, becoming the first cable or satellite TV provider to strike such a partnership.

Cablevision also recently became the first major U.S. cable operator to launch a mobile phone service that uses its network of Wi-Fi hot spots. Cablevision on Monday said its total customers—businesses or households that subscribe to at least one service—fell by 2.3% from the prior-year to 3.1 million as of March 31. Video, voice and high-speed data customer numbers all declined compared with a year ago. For the quarter ended March 31, Cablevision posted a profit of $44.6 million, or 17 cents a share, down from $89.8 million, or 34 cents a share, a year earlier. Earnings from continuing operations were 20 cents a share. Revenue grew to $1.62 billion from $1.58 billion a year earlier. Analysts had projected 17 cents a share in profit and $1.6 billion in revenue, according to Thomson Reuters. Net revenue from cable edged up to $1.45 billion from $1.42 billion a year ago. Average monthly cable revenue per customer grew 4.8% to $155.34. – ***Wall Street Journal***

Gov. Tom Wolf is opening his cabinet's expense books up to public scrutiny. Department heads and select top aides have put their fuel costs, car leases, hotel bills and other expenses online. Spokesman Jeffrey Sheridan said this is the first governor's administration in Pennsylvania to share its expenses. "The governor is very much committed to restoring the public's trust in government," said Sheridan. He said the expenses will probably be updated on a monthly basis. The governor's acting banking secretary, Robin Wiessman, has disclosed more than $3,328 in expenses, most of it on hotel and vehicle costs. Wiessman is followed by Katie McGinty, the governor's chief of staff, who has disclosed about $2,928 spent mostly for her state vehicle lease, gas, and hotel.

The governor's security detail's expenses are not being posted online. Sheridan said Wolf has no expenses to post himself because he isn't being reimbursed for anything. "Last week we were on the way back from the Lehigh Valley to Bucks County and we stopped at a Burger King, and he paid out of pocket for his meal," Sheridan said. The governor's office sees the move as "another step" to increase transparency, following on decisions to ban the administration from taking gifts, share Wolf's weekly public calendar at the conclusion of the workweek, and change how the commonwealth contracts with outside legal firms. – ***WHYY-TV/FM, Philadelphia***

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