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May 14, 2019

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[Telecom, Cable Groups Push Rival](#)

Verizon is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the person responsible for deliberately damaging the company's equipment throughout South Jersey.

Verizon says in at least 10 incidents, someone has damaged Verizon equipment. The destruction has left customers and businesses without a way to communicate, in some cases for an entire day. The incidents have been reported during overnight hours in parts of Burlington and Camden communities, including Cherry Hill, Marlton, Evesham and Shamong.

Verizon is also sharing an image believed to be a person of interest in connection with an incident on April 28 in Cherry Hill. "This is extremely

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dangerous and reckless activity and it needs to stop," said Mike Mason, Verizon's chief security officer. "Each time a cable is cut or our equipment is damaged, these perpetrators are jeopardizing our customers' ability to communicate. It means they may not be able to contact their families, a doctor or 911 emergency services."

Police believe whoever is responsible has detailed knowledge of how to disrupt Verizon service by cutting a middle portion of the cables making it difficult for Verizon to repair the cable in a timely manner. Authorities believe it's possible a disgruntled worker or contractor could be responsible.

Chief Police Chief Bud Monaghan said the pieces of cable stolen have no monetary value if someone were to sell it for scrap on the street. "They are not removing it to where there's copper where they can sell it for scrap. They are removing it to cause a longer duration in the repair line and extend the outage and it increases the cost of that vandalism," said Monaghan.

Cherry Hill police report the incidents happened between the 2040 - 2070 blocks on Springdale Road. Authorities also believe the culprit is hitting utility poles after midnight. Verizon is encouraging anyone with any information to call 911 and then Verizon's Security Control Center at 1-800-997-3287. – ***WPVI-TV, Philadelphia***

Revenue at Viacom Inc. VIAB -3.76% dropped in its latest quarter, as the media giant grapples with shrinking distribution fees and moving its content and advertising beyond traditional television platforms. Viacom, the parent of Comedy Central and Nickelodeon, said revenue for the second quarter ended March 31 fell 6% to \$2.96 billion. Excluding the impact of foreign exchange, revenue fell 4%. Analysts polled by Refinitiv were expecting \$3.06 billion in revenue.

Viacom's U.S. "affiliate revenue," as carriage fees and other distribution deals are called in financial reports, was \$936 million, down 2% from a year earlier. Viacom said in March it expects U.S. affiliate revenue to return to full-year growth after years of stagnation. Viacom agreed to a deal with DirecTV owner AT&T Inc. to allow the company to provide its channels but for a substantial decrease in carriage payments.

The deal comes at a time when some big media companies are struggling to sell their networks to distributors at higher prices when fewer people are subscribing to cable and satellite TV, and ratings continue to fall across the industry. However, Viacom is working to generate revenue from production deals with nontraditional video buyers, including Facebook Watch, the social network's video-on-demand service for which Viacom is rebooting "The Real World" franchise. "As the media landscape continues to segment across price points, we're confident in our strategy, strong results and the opportunities ahead as we continue to position Viacom for the future," Chief Executive Bob Bakish said in prepared remarks.

Overall media networks division revenue declined 6.6% to \$2.27 billion. The company said domestic revenue was affected by licensing and subscriber erosion though it was partially offset by growth in its marketing solutions segment. Viacom's Paramount Pictures has been seen as a bright spot for growth, and revenue from box-office releases more than tripled in the latest quarter. However, a decline in licensing drove overall revenue from the filmed entertainment segment, which includes Paramount, down 1.5%.

Lower operating expenses helped lift the company's profit 41% from a year earlier to \$376 million, or 93 cents a share. Earnings from continuing operations were 95 cents a share, up from 92 cents a share. Analysts were expecting adjusted earnings of 80 cents a share. The company's Class B shares fell 1.7% in premarket trading. – *Wall Street Journal*

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Twitter apologized Monday for inadvertently collecting and sharing the location data of users with a “trusted partner,” adding that the issue had been fixed and the company is “working hard to make sure it does not happen again.” “You trust us to be careful with your data, and because of that, we want to be open with you when we make a mistake,” Twitter wrote in a statement. “We have discovered that we were inadvertently collecting and sharing iOS location data with one of our trusted partners in certain circumstances.”

Specifically, Twitter announced that it had unintentionally collected the location data of iOS users that had more than one account and had opted to use a location feature on one of these accounts. Twitter said in some cases, it may have collected the location information for an account not authorized for location features if the user was on the same device for both accounts. It was not clear how many Twitter users may have been affected.

Twitter said it had also accidentally sent user location data to a third-party company during the “real time bidding” advertising process, noting that the data has since been deleted as part of the third-party company’s “normal process.” Twitter said that all of the users impacted by the data privacy incident have been contacted to let them know this issue has been fixed, and urged all users to check their privacy settings to make sure they were sharing only the information they wanted to with Twitter. “We’re very sorry this happened,” Twitter wrote. “We recognize and appreciate the trust you place in us and are committed to earning that trust every day.” – *The Hill*



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