

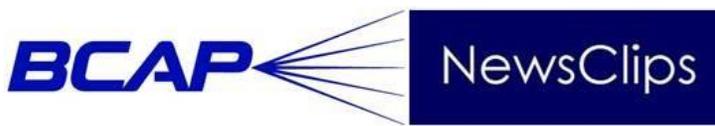
Making A Splash!
30TH ANNUAL CABLE ACADEMY
April 18-19, 2018
Kalahari Poconos Resort & Waterpark

Broadband's New Wave

Cable Academy returns to the Poconos on April 18 & 19, 2018 in the midst of the most challenging and competitive period in our industry's history! This year's program will emphasize that not adapting is not an option. Learn how broadband cable is embracing today's opportunities, and can ride a "new wave" of customer retention and growth!

CONFIRM YOUR SPONSORSHIP, REGISTRATION AND EXHIBIT

Click here to reserve your room at Kalahari!



April 3, 2018

Variety

ESPN Says New Streaming Service, 'ESPN+' Will Launch April 12

Washington Post

The nation's biggest conservative broadcaster is putting words in its anchors' mouths. Critics blame the FCC.

CNN

Kentucky Democrat says she's pulling ads from Sinclair station, calls for boycott

Politico

Trump tweet seen as boost for Sinclair deal

New York Times

They Tried to Boycott Facebook, Apple and Google. They Failed.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Can a Democrat pull off another Conor Lamb-esque upset in bright red 14th Congressional District?



21st Century Fox Inc. on Tuesday said Walt Disney Co. was prepared to buy Sky PLC's news channel, a move that could help Fox consolidate its ownership of the European pay-TV operator.

The possible sale of Sky News to Disney is Fox's latest attempt to allay concerns in Britain that a takeover of Sky would give Rupert Murdoch too much

influence over the country's media. It comes as **Disney pursues a separate \$52 billion bid** to acquire much of Fox, including its film studios and stake in Sky. Fox said Disney is open to acquiring Sky News even if the larger transaction doesn't proceed.

Disney's interest in acquiring the news channel is the latest twist in a complicated takeover battle that pits Disney and Fox against Comcast Corp., the U.S. cable giant, in a battle for content and subscribers. Disney views Sky as an

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

State seeks voting machines with paper trails

WHYY-TV/FM, Philadelphia

Is Pennsylvania swarming with illegal voters?

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Court data show that distracted driving citations continue to climb in Pennsylvania

important component of its deal for Fox and key to its plans to expand its international footprint.

Fox, which currently owns 39% of Sky, in December 2016 launched its \$16 billion bid to acquire the rest of the broadcaster that it doesn't already own. The deal has faced a series of regulatory hurdles. In a preliminary finding earlier this year, U.K. antitrust authorities said Fox's full ownership of Sky and its Sky News business would give Mr. Murdoch too much influence over British media. The Murdoch family controls a 39% voting interest in both Fox and News Corp, a major U.K. newspaper publisher with titles including the Sun, the Times of London and the Sunday Times. News Corp also owns The Wall Street Journal.

Earlier this year, Fox said it would take steps to ensure the independence of Sky News to win support from regulators. On Tuesday, it indicated a willingness to go further. It could sell Sky News to Disney. Alternatively, it said it could establish Sky News as a separate company within the bigger Sky group, with an independent board. It also pledged 15 years of guaranteed funding for the news channel. "The enhanced remedies we proposed to safeguard the editorial independence of Sky News addressed comprehensively and constructively the [U.K. Competition and Markets Authority's] provisional concerns," Fox said. Disney wasn't immediately available for comment.

Still, completion of the Fox-Sky deal is far from certain even if antitrust authorities sign off on the pact and the U.K. government approves it. At least 75% of Sky's shareholders, not including Fox, need to support the takeover, which faces competition from Comcast. In February, **Comcast announced plans to bid £22.1 billion** (\$31.04 billion), or £12.50 a share for all of Sky, well above Fox's offer of £10.75 a share. Sky currently trades higher than the Comcast proposal, indicating that investors expecting a bidding war. Sky shares were up 1% at £13.10 in morning trading in London. — ***Wall Street Journal***

Sumner Redstone has overwhelming voting control of CBS Corp. and Viacom Inc. And yet, he won't have the final say over whether the companies merge. That is because the 94-year-old media mogul, whose health has declined so significantly that he cannot speak much beyond grunts, has only one vote on the board of National Amusements Inc., the holding company he controls that in turn owns most of the voting stakes in CBS and Viacom.

National Amusements updated its bylaws in 2016 to make clear that Mr. Redstone had a single vote among seven NAI directors in decisions tied to the Viacom and CBS stakes,

people familiar with the matter said, despite owning 80% of the holding company's voting shares. The move, meant to clarify NAI's procedures partly due to questions about Mr. Redstone's mental capacity, hasn't previously been disclosed.

A deal to reunite the two big pieces of the Redstone family media empire would cement the rise of Shari Redstone, Mr. Redstone's daughter. She increased her influence in 2016 after a power struggle with Viacom's prior management team and since has been pushing for a merger. A decision on whether to combine CBS and Viacom could come as soon as this month, according to some of the people familiar with the matter. CBS is close to making an all-stock offer that values Viacom below its current stock price, according to a person familiar with the matter. Analysts largely expect Viacom to get a premium. If the bid is accepted, CBS Chief Executive Leslie Moonves would agree to stay on for at least two years, according to the person. Reuters first reported the expected bid details.

Today's chain of authority at NAI is a far cry from how Mr. Redstone, notoriously autocratic, ran his empire in his heyday. He once declared, before Viacom and CBS split in 2006, that "Viacom is me." Questions have surfaced in recent years about Mr. Redstone's mental standing. To help him communicate, some people who recently have met with him say that he has an iPad loaded with snippets of his voice, connected to buttons for words or phrases including "yes," "no" and "f—you."

Mr. Redstone has had to take mental-capacity exams every time he has changed his estate-planning documents over the last three years, court records show, although he has never been deemed incapacitated. But because he isn't the ultimate decision maker on how to vote NAI's shares, the people said, he won't have to take a capacity exam if and when a merger occurs to sign off on.

Last week, a judge unsealed an unredacted complaint by Mr. Redstone's former live-in companion, Manuela Herzer, in her federal lawsuit alleging that Mr. Redstone's daughter and grandson conspired to oust her from his life, which says they "used Sumner as an incapacitated puppet to literally manipulate every aspect of CBS and Viacom." Rob Klieger, attorney for both Mr. and Ms. Redstone, called the claims "fanciful."

Viacom and CBS make no mention of the NAI board-voting structure in their most recent proxy statements, which say that the shares of NAI held by Mr. Redstone's trust "are voted solely by Mr. Redstone until such time as his incapacity or

death.” People close to NAI say that the proxies’ language simply means Mr. Redstone has the right to replace all of the NAI board members and that the board of NAI, not Mr. Redstone himself, has always had the power to vote the Viacom and CBS stakes.

But after a 2016 power struggle that led to the ouster of former Viacom CEO Philippe Dauman, enough questions were swirling about Mr. Redstone’s mental capacity that NAI updated its bylaws in September of that year to make things explicit. NAI expanded the list of officers who could sign off on board decisions from just the CEO, who is Mr. Redstone, to include the president, who is Ms. Redstone, and clarified that with any future dispute, the board—not Mr. Redstone alone—has the authority to vote NAI’s shares, according to the people familiar with the matter.

Ms. Redstone, who serves as vice chair of CBS and Viacom, controls 20% of NAI. “The act was done to avoid finding ourselves in a position where every corporate decision by NAI would be open to challenge,” said one person familiar with the matter. People close to Mr. Redstone say he has mental capacity and is supportive of CBS and Viacom exploring a merger.

If there is a merger agreement for Mr. Redstone to weigh in on, he will do so through a combination of verbal agreement—a person close to him said some of his “yes” and “no” responses can still be understood—backed up by responses made through the iPad. If a signature is required, he would sign the document, the person said. In her lawsuit, Ms. Herzer alleges that Ms. Redstone took over her father’s media empire against his wishes. The unredacted complaint contains a July 2015 email from Ms. Redstone to her son, Tyler Korff, saying “your grandfather says I will be chair over his dead body.” Within several months, Shari Redstone said she and her father had reconciled.

A year later, Mr. Redstone sued Ms. Herzer and another former companion, Sydney Holland, for elder abuse. That suit is pending; the women’s lawyers have denied the allegations. Since then, Ms. Herzer alleges Mr. Redstone has been a “hostage in his own home,” unable to see visitors beyond those vetted by his daughter. People close to Mr. Redstone deny this. Mr. Redstone last saw Viacom CEO Bob Bakish about six months ago and Mr. Moonves about a year ago, according to people familiar with the matter.

In the past few months, he has visited with old friends, including former Paramount chief Sherry Lansing and her husband filmmaker William Friedkin, wealth adviser Rebecca Rothstein and his ex-wife, Phyllis Redstone, people familiar

with the matter said. Ms. Rothstein said Mr. Redstone visited her home in Malibu within the past few weeks. “I’ve only been the recipient of the f—you once,” Ms. Rothstein said, as a response to a joke she told. “He meant it in an endearing way.” – *Wall Street Journal*

A bill to accelerate construction of high-speed **broadband internet service in rural Colorado** is now law. Gov. John Hickenlooper signed the bill Monday. It is one of his **top priorities for the 2018 legislative session**. The law is designed to **bridge the economic divide between rural and urban** parts of Colorado.

Supporters say the state’s eastern plains, western slope and many mountain towns have lagged behind because of sluggish or non-existent service. Fast internet is a lifeline for farmers, telemedicine, public schools and small businesses. The bill will take money from a fund that long has subsidized rural telephone service and invest it in broadband construction over a five-year period ending in 2023. Legislative analysts estimate more than \$115 million will go to broadband grants between 2019 and 2023. – *Associated Press*



BCAP | 127 State Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101

[Unsubscribe qpotter@bcapa.com](mailto:qpotter@bcapa.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by bcap@bcapa.com in collaboration with

