

KEMMER TV'S DIGITAL DIGEST

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3

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MAY 2010

WELCOME !

Once again time speeds forward and suddenly it's May. Another advantage to the digital conversion is the 24 hour weather on channels 4-2 and 36-7. Helps to keep an eye on the approaching thunderstorms and plan for your vacations.

As always, if you have any questions you can E-mail me at kemmertv@wi.rr.com Or call **262-246-6495**

Now you can also visit my new website at www.kemmertv.com

LARRY

FLANNER'S

Flanner's Home Entertainment, the family-owned electronics store in Brookfield, has shut its doors, because of financial problems.

"We're not out of business," owner John Flanner said in an interview. He hopes to re-open his store if he can get new financing. Flanner said his bank has demanded repayment of the company's debt.

"We were so constrained in the last couple of weeks. If we're not providing the kind of service we want, we just need to pause," Flanner said.

The lack of cash has made it difficult for Flanner's to get merchandise from vendors, he said. In recent weeks, his inability to get product has been a bigger problem than lack of customers, he said.

Flanner's has not filed for bankruptcy, he said. "We are actively seeking to work this out," Flanner said.

In recent years, with increased competition from big box retailers as well as from Wal-Mart, the business has served a high-end niche and focused on providing service to baby boomer customers. In an interview in 2004, Flanner said its home installation service accounted for a quarter of the company's \$15 million in annual sales.

The business was started by John Flanner's great-grandfather, Joseph, in 1891, on what is now Wisconsin Ave. In those days, music in the home was a do-it-yourself project, and Flanner sold sheet music. In 1913 Joseph Flanner's son, Florian, formed a partnership with piano dealer Eric S. Hafsoos, and the store changed its name to Flanner & Hafsoos.

As the phonograph and then radio, television and stereo became popular over the years, those products were added to the mix.

The store moved from downtown Milwaukee to Mayfair Mall in 1963, following the trend toward suburban shopping. By

that time, John Flanner's dad, Joseph, was running the company with Roy Hafsoos, Eric's nephew. Roy retired in 1976 John Flanner joined the business in 1975. He moved the store from Mayfair in 1994 to a larger space on W. Blue Mound Rd. just west of Calhoun Rd., in Brookfield. The extra square footage, 19,000 square feet, allowed room to display home theater products in room settings.

Flanner's moved to the former Barnes & Noble space at 16220 W. Blue Mound Rd. in 2005. The current store, across from Brookfield Square, has 26,000 square feet.

3D HEALTH WARNING

Samsung has posted a warning on its Australian web site that watching 3D HDTV could be harmful to young children, pregnant women, the elderly and others, even the drunk.

The company apparently is reacting to reports that watching the reality-alerting images has left some people with headaches and a feeling of dizziness.

Samsung, which last month launched two 3D HDTV models in the U.S., says in the warning that "children and teenagers may be more susceptible to health issues associated with viewing in 3D and should be closely supervised when viewing these images."

But the notice adds that some viewers can experience an epileptic seizure or stroke when exposed to certain flashing images found in TV pictures.

Additionally, the company says, "pregnant women, the elderly, sufferers of serious medical conditions, those who are sleep deprived or under the influence of alcohol should avoid utilizing the unit's 3D functionality."

Samsung even counsels against wearing 3D goggles for an extended period of time.

"Watching TV while wearing 3D glasses for an extended period of time may cause a headache or fatigue. If you experience a headache, fatigue or dizziness, stop viewing TV and rest," the company warns.

It's unclear why Samsung has posted the health warning at its Australian site, but not on its U.S. site.

BLOCKBUSTER LATE FEES

Blockbuster has reinstated late fees on DVD and Blu-ray movie rentals at retail stores, Home Media Magazine reports.

The web site says the fees began May 1st. New release movie rental periods for \$4.99 titles has been cut from seven to five days; a \$1 per day late fee will be assessed for up to 10 days after the deadline.

VIDEO GAME "BEJEWELED 2"

When it comes to gaming, there's dedication and there's dedication. Mike Leyde has the latter.

The 56-year-old from California spent 2,205 hours--"the equivalent of playing for eight hours a day, five days a week, for an entire year" -- over the past three years playing his favorite game, Bejeweled 2. In that time, he accumulated the game's highest allowable score, 4,872,229 gems, to "beat" it.

Leyde's feat is especially surprising because Bejeweled 2's creator believed no one would ever invest the time to beat the game.

"We had to give the game some sort of maximum-displayable score, and figured that was high enough; no one would ever get that many points," Bejeweled co-creator Brian Fiete said in a statement. "When Mike collected that next gem match, the additional 2,200 points would have put his score above the maximum 'calculable' score, and much like some of the original arcade games, it caused his score to 'flip around' to a negative number. Well, the game's code wasn't designed to display a negative number so it just showed a blank where the score should be."

Leyde said in a statement that he spent about one to two hours each day playing Bejeweled 2, but he doesn't consider himself much of a gamer. He said that he enjoys Tetris, but hardcore games don't appeal to him. That said, he has a will to win whatever he decides to invest his time in.

"If you're going to invest time in something," Leyde said, "you might as well be as good at it as you possibly can, and I really enjoy the thrill of victory."
CNET

JVC & HEARST

JVC announced Tuesday (Apr. 13) at NAB that station group Hearst Television will be buying its handheld GY-HM100 ProHD camcorders for its take on the "backpack journalism" journalist concept, which Hearst calls the "Next Generation Newsroom Project."

Hearst piloted the Next Generation project in three stations last year, and has launched it this year at WPBF West Palm Beach and KETV Omaha, Neb. Six more stations are now using the GY-HM100 camcorders, which records natively in the .mov format on SDHC media cards and lists for \$3,495. They include KMBC Kansas City, Mo.; WLWT Cincinnati; **WISN Milwaukee**; WGAL Lancaster, Pa.; KOCO Oklahoma City; and KCCI Des Moines, Iowa.

The JVC cameras are being used in conjunction with a Dell laptop loaded with Adobe Premiere Pro CS5 nonlinear editing software, which Hearst is implementing across the group for various applications. News packages are recorded and edited in HD, then downconverted to SD and sent via FTP transport back to the station for inclusion in local newscasts.

Hearst outlets WMUR Manchester, N.H. and WESH Orlando are slated to deploy the new cameras this month, and Hearst plans to purchase additional GY-HM100s for at least six more stations this year.
B&C

DISH vs. TIVO

Washington, D.C. (May 10, 2010) -- Dish Network CEO Charlie Ergen said today that his company is prepared to disable millions of customer DVRs if it loses a patent case against TiVo.

After several twists and turns, the case is finally nearing its conclusion. A federal appeals court ruled in March that Dish had violated TiVo's patents.

Dish has filed an appeal with the full appeals court, but Ergen acknowledged today in an analysts call that that is a long shot.

And if the appeal is dismissed, he said, "the only thing we can control is to shut down boxes, so we have to, obviously, if we were to lose in the court procedures."

Ergen's comments came after the company released its first quarter report which showed that it gained 237,000 net subscribers in the first quarter.

However, the TiVo dispute poses a serious obstacle in Dish's effort to generate new subscribers in the future and keep current ones.

Ergen suggested that the companies could reach a compromise, saying he wanted to work with TiVo. There have been rumors that Dish might buy the DVR service, but Ergen said he hadn't given that much thought.

Wall Street analysts have suggested that Dish could be forced to disable up to seven million DVRs if it loses the patent case to TiVo.
PHIL SWANN

WIRELESS HD LINK

Just about everyone wants to mount an HDTV on the wall but most don't want to run wires to it. No way around running at least power, but as for the rest there are a few solutions if you have the cash.

One of those solutions is the [Philips Wireless HDTV Link](#). In addition to the obvious wireless functionality, it is also a 2 way HDMI and 2 way component switch. The way it works is that you mount a small, lightweight receiver around your TV with a single HDMI cable running tethered to your HDTV. Then you put the larger transmitter with all the inputs within 75-feet of your HDTV with all your source equipment connected to it. Then with a help from the included remote you can watch any one of the four HD sources on your remote HDTV.

For the most part it works exactly as advertised, but we found that when we put the transmitter in a closet in the next room things took a little longer than they should to sync up. The good news is that we had no troubles sending 1080p60 from across a room and there was no noticeable lag.

The bad news is that unless all your devices work in [HDMI CEC](#) harmony, you're still going to need some way to get the remote IR to the source equipment. Speaking of a remote, the included remote is simple enough and luckily easily replaced with your programmable one.

At the retail price of \$799 Philips is crazy, but considering this can be had for less than \$400 from some online retailers it might be just the thing you're looking for if you can't run HDMI cables between our equipment.
CNET

ON-LINE-VIEWING

Nearly a quarter of all young adults are viewing more television content online, according to a new study by electronics shopping and review/research company [Retrevo](#). According to a Retrevo "Pulse Report" of over 1,000 people regarding their TV viewing habits, 23% of people under the age of 25 watch most of their television content online compared with just 8% of people over the age of 25 watching most of their TV shows via the web.

The report also found that men are more likely to view TV on the web than women: 17% of men watch all of their TV content online, while just 9% of women sit in front of their PC's to watch TV shows.

When asked what it would take to convert to the web for all of their TV viewing, 20% of respondents said more high-definition web content, followed by content from premium networks like HBO (19%) and live sports programming (15%). More than half (57%) of respondents said they were happy with their cable or satellite service, with only 26% reporting that they have either cancelled or are considering cancelling their service. An additional 15% of people surveyed said that higher cable and satellite prices would drive them to watch all of their TV shows online, according to the study.

"While the data presented is not enough to send the cable and satellite industry packing, it does suggest that online TV viewership is on the rise, and people are tired of high-priced programming," said Andrew Eisner.

MOTHER'S DAY

Children and spouses are expected to spend \$906 million on consumer electronics for Mom this Mother's Day, a 5.7 percent increase over last year.

According to a survey by market research firm BIGresearch for the National Retail Federation (NRF) trade group, the average shopper will shell out \$87.70 on Mother's Day CE, up from \$76.41 last year.

However, the percentage of all shoppers selecting CE for mom slipped from 10 percent last year to 9 percent this year, placing electronics in last place behind clothing, jewelry, flowers, books, cards and gift certificates as the holiday's gift of choice.

Total spending is expected to reach \$14.6 billion, making Mother's Day the second-largest U.S. consumer spending holiday after the winter holiday season. The average person will shell out \$126.90 on Mother's Day gifts this year, compared with \$123.89 in 2009. A separate Mother's Day forecast, from IBISWorld, pegged CE growth at 6.5 percent, second behind only clothing, for a projected holiday take of \$910 million.

"Clothing and electronics are set to see the greatest growth for year-on-year sales this Mother's Day," said IBISWorld senior analyst Toon van Beeck. "The electronics sector is one area that has observed great swings in growth and decline throughout the past few years. However, this Mother's Day will prove positive for electronic retailers, as consumers return after consecutive years of holding back on such discretionary purchases."

TWICE

1,000,000 iPad

On May 3, 2010 Apple® announced that it sold its one millionth iPad™ on Friday, just 28 days after its introduction on April 3. iPad users have already downloaded over 12 million apps from the App Store and over 1.5 million ebooks from the new iBookstore.

"One million iPads in 28 days-that's less than half of the 74 days it took to achieve this milestone with iPhone," said Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO. "Demand continues to exceed supply and we're working hard to get this magical product into the hands of even more customers."

iPad allows users to connect with their apps and content in a more intimate, intuitive and fun way than ever before. Users can browse the web, read and send email, enjoy and share photos, watch HD videos, listen to music, play games, read ebooks and much more, all using iPad's revolutionary Multi-Touch™ user interface. iPad is 0.5 inches thin and weighs just 1.5 pounds-thinner and lighter than any laptop or netbook-and delivers up to 10 hours of battery life.*

Developers have created over 5,000 exciting new apps for iPad that take advantage of its Multi-Touch user interface, large screen and high-quality graphics. iPad will run almost all of the more than 200,000 apps on the App Store, including apps already purchased for your iPhone® or iPod touch®.

Apple ignited the personal computer revolution with the Apple II, then reinvented the personal computer with the Macintosh. Apple continues to lead the industry with its award-winning computers, OS X operating system, and iLife, iWork and professional applications. Apple leads the digital music revolution with its iPods and iTunes online store, has reinvented the mobile phone with its revolutionary iPhone and App Store, and has recently introduced its magical iPad which is defining the future of mobile media and computing devices.

CEA

An industry trade group said yesterday that 65 percent of U.S. households now own at least one High-Definition TV.

The Consumer Electronics Association, which represents CE companies, said the HD ownership count is a 13 percentage point increase from a year ago.

While other recent studies have put HD ownership in the U.S. at just over 50 percent, the CEA said HDTV sales have been booming in the past 12 months. In fact, the group called HDTV "the top industry growth driver of the past 12 months."

"A drop in price, widespread availability of HD content and successful completion of the digital television transition last year have all led to an increased ownership rate for HDTVs," said Brian Markwalter, CEA's vice president of research.

The CEA found that many consumers are now buying HDTVs as secondary sets. The average households now owns 1.8 HDTVs, up from 1.5 in 2009.

HDTVs are also the first product consumers say they want to purchase, with 23 percent planning to buy a new HDTV in the coming months.

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