

CableFAX Daily™

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What the Industry Reads First

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Countdown: Programming Disputes Heat Up Ahead of New Year

It's the same question every year: Which broadcasters and cable networks will drop at the same time as the Times Square Ball? Dec 31 continues to be a big date for programming contract expirations. Here's a few that we know about, but it's often the disputes no one hears about until the last minute that get the most heated. **Cablevision:** The *NY Post* reported Fri afternoon that **Viacom** nets could go dark on the MSO. Sources confirmed that the deal does expire at year-end, although both sides are still negotiating. It is anyone's guess how this one goes. Viacom, which owns **Nick**, **MTV**, and **Comedy Central**, was off **DirectTV** for 10 days in July. Thus, the programmer may be anxious to avoid another blackout. On the other hand, it has shown it's willing to go there. Similarly, **Cablevision** is not afraid to draw a line in the sand, having previously lost **Fox** during the World Series and **Food** and **HGTV** for 3 weeks in '10. Plus, there was its 2-month spat with **Tribune** this year. **DirectTV:** The satellite provider has several retrans deals expiring at the close of 2012. **Morgan Murphy Media** has 5 stations that could go dark on DirecTV: **CBS** affil in La Crosse-Eau Claire, WI, **ABC** in Spokane, WA; CBS in Madison, WI; and ABC in Yakima-Pasco-Richland, WA. This is an odd one in that DirecTV says that the stations in Madison and the Tri-Cities have contracts that don't even expire until next year. **Capitol Broadcasting** also has sounded the alarm bell. Stations including CBS affil **WRAL** and **Fox** affil **WRAZ**, both in Raleigh, NC, could go dark if a new deal isn't reached by Jan 1. **Hoak Media** and **Parker Broadcasting**, which operate **KVLY** and **KXJB** in Fargo, also have warned of a possible blackout on DirecTV. Hoak owns the **NBC** affil in Fargo and has an LMA for Parker's CBS affil. DirecTV's statement for Hoak/Parker is similar to what it's saying in the other skirmishes. "DirecTV has ongoing partnerships with more than 1K different local stations, and we will arrive at another with Hoak Media and Parker Broadcasting soon, too. But until then, we have a simple solution for any of our customers who want to stop these unnecessary blackouts and antagonizing threats once and for all: an inexpensive digital antenna that we will explain how to use on directvpromise.com." **Bonten Media** also has informed viewers that DirecTV's contract expires Dec 31. Perhaps that one will be settled, as a banner ad on **KRCR TV's** Website reads: "An important message for our DirecTV viewers" but the link is broken. **Time Warner Cable:** TWC's New Year's Eve watch is mainly about cable nets, with *Glenn Britt* warning earlier in the month that low-rated networks would be dropped. It appears likely **Ovation** will go dark at midnight. **IFC** and

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CableFAX 2013 Calendar

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JANUARY

Jan 22: Webinar: Cable & The Cloud
CableFAX Daily Special Report: Outlook 2013

FEBRUARY

CableFAX Daily Special Report: Black History Programming
Feb 15: CableFAX's Sales Executive of the Year Awards Deadline

MARCH

Mar 12: CableFAX Digital Hot List/Best of Web Awards Event
Mar 15: Cable FAXIES Awards Deadline
Mar 15: CableFAX 100 Nomination Deadline
Mar 20: Executive Roundtable on Digital Multi-Platforms
Mar 26: Webinar: Cable and the Digital Horizon
CableFAX Daily Special Report: Digital Hot List/Best of Web Awards Winners Issue

MAY

May 9: FAXIES/SEOY Luncheon in NYC
CableFAX Daily Special Report: Cable FAXIES/SEOY Awards Winners Issue

JUNE

CableFAX: The Magazine – CableFAX 100
Jun 9-12: CableFAX Daily NCTA Special Issues
Jun 13: CableFAX Executive One Day Summit

JULY

CableFAX: The Magazine – Top Ops Issue
Jul 5: Program Awards and Top Places to Work Deadline
Jul 23: Webinar (Topic TBD)
Jul 29: CableFAX Daily Independent Show Special Issue

SEPTEMBER

CableFAX: The Magazine – Diversity Issue
Sept 24: Webinar (Topic TBD)
CableFAX Daily Special Report: WICT
Sept 25: CableFAX Program Awards/Top Ops/Best Places to Work Event

OCTOBER

CableFAX: The Magazine – Most Powerful Women in Cable Issue
Oct 1: CableFAX Executive Roundtable

NOVEMBER

Nov 5: Most Powerful Women in Cable Event
Nov 12: Webinar (Topic TBD)

DECEMBER

Dec 4: CableFAX Leadership Roundtable
Dec 6: Best of the Web Awards Deadline

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WE are also in danger of being dropped, but sources say the companies are still negotiating. Siblings **AMC** and **Sundance's** contracts are separate. **Nuvo TV** is slated to be moved to TWC's Hispanic tier around the first of the year—on or around Jan 18, according to TWC legal notices. "As the only English-language network targeted to Latinos carried by Time Warner Cable, we are continuing our discussions in this matter and will not comment publicly," NuvoTV CEO *Michael Schwimmer* said in a statement. TWC also has at least 1 retrans consent contract expiring, with **Media General** warning viewers that they could lose stations at 12:01am Jan 1. Impacted markets include: Charleston, SC (NBC, **CW**), Raleigh/Durham (NBC, **Antenna TV**), Columbus, OH (NBC, **MeTV**), Greenville-New Bern, NC (CBS, CW), Greenville-Spartanburg, SC (CBS), Myrtle Beach-Florence, SC (CBS, MyNet), Savannah, GA (NBC, **MyNet**, MeTV) and Tri Cities TN/VA (CBS). **Verizon**: Verizon intends to drop **Youtoo** from its lineup Dec 31. Youtoo, formerly American Life TV, has hired a lobbying firm and CEO *Chris Wyatt* has been meeting with lawmakers and **FCC** staffers, according to a *Dallas Morning News* article. "The cable cartel is truly an oligopoly. As a programmer, if I speak out against one cable operator, everyone fears being dropped," Wyatt told the paper.

Sports Deal: **SportsTime Ohio** will soon be part of **News Corp. Fox Sports Media Group** agreed to acquire the Cleveland-based RSN that has been offering local telecasts of Cleveland Indians games for the past 7 seasons. Fox has secured the exclusive long-term local telecast rights for Indians baseball, allowing that the Indians will once again be part of Fox Sports portfolio of regionally televised hometown teams. Prior to the '06 season, Indians games were locally televised by **Fox Sports Ohio**. Fox Sports Ohio serves more than 5mln homes throughout Ohio and parts of KY, IN, western PA, western NY and WV. SportsTime Ohio also offers other locally relevant sports content, including Cleveland Browns programming, OHSAA football and basketball playoffs and championships, and Mid-American Conference events. The deal "reunites the team with the FOX Sports family," said *Jeff Krolak*, evp, FOX Sports Networks.

Carriage: **BBC World News** is now available on **Time Warner Cable**. The rollout was announced earlier and was completed Thurs. With the TWC deal, the net is now available to some 25mln homes.

At the Portals: Good news, *Alec Baldwin*. It could get easier to have Words with Friends on airplanes soon. The **FCC** adopted a report and order establishing rules to help speed deployment of Internet onboard aircraft. Since '01, the FCC has authorized some companies on an ad hoc basis to operate Earth Stations Aboard Aircraft, proving 2-way in-flight broadband services to passengers and flight crew. The report and order formalizes ESAA as a licensed application in the Fixed-Satellite Service and establishes a regulatory framework for processing applications while ensuring other radio service ops are protected from interference. Instead of licensing on-board system on an ad hoc basis, airlines will be able to test systems that meet FCC standards and get FAA approval. The Commission expects the rules to allow it to process ESAA applications up to 50% faster. -- **Suddenlink** sought 6-month waivers for 12 of its "very smallest and most remote cable systems" from compliance with the Emergency Alert Systems requirements of the **FCC's** rules, according to a filing. Research conducted by Suddenlink's engineering staff indicated there's still no viable means to bring these remote systems into immediate compliance, the company said. Additionally, these sites lack the broadband access necessary to reliably receive CAP-formatted alerts, it said.

From the Street: By the end of '13, some 125% of **Viacom's** content will be available OTT, according to **Bernstein Research's** '13 prediction report Fri. The research firm listed *Karen Kornbluh*, a former *Obama* advisor and **NTIA** administrator *Larry Strickling* as potential suitors for the next FCC chair. However, it noted it would be "much more entertaining" if the Commission's headed by one of the following 4: former *Obama* adviser *Susan Crawford*, former FCC chmn *Reed Hundt* or *Jim Cicconi* & *Bob Quinn*, both senior execs from **AT&T**. And congratulations **DISH**, you have the most quoted execs in the research firm's Weekend Media Blast "Quote of the Week." The analysts cited **DISH** chmn *Charlie Ergen*, CEO *Joseph Clayton*, evp/dir *James DeFranco*, CFO *Robert Olson*, COO *Han Bernard* and evp *Erik Carlson* as the most quoted industry personalities. The analysts also made a safe (and funny) **Apple** TV prediction, saying Apple will be rumored to launch a TV or a set top box every day of the year in '13.

People: Congrats to former **NCTA** attorney *Dan Brenner* who was appointed as a judge for the L.A. Superior Court this week by CA Gov *Jerry Brown*. Brenner most recently was a partner at **Hogan Lovells US**.

Editor's Note: **CableFAX Daily's** next issue will arrive Wed, Jan 2. Happy New Year!

CableFAX Week in Review

Company	Ticker	12/28 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS				
DIRECTV:	DTV	49.42	(1.77%)	15.58%
DISH:	DISH	35.43	(0.48%)	24.40%
DISNEY:	DIS	49.15	(1.8%)	31.07%
GE:	GE	20.44	(2.39%)	14.13%
NEWS CORP:	NWS	25.28	(1.33%)	39.05%
MSOS				
CABLEVISION:	CVC	14.73	1.87%	3.59%
CHARTER:	CHTR	73.58	0.29%	29.22%
COMCAST:	CMCSA	36.54	(1.83%)	54.11%
COMCAST SPCL:	CMCSK	35.21	(1.79%)	49.45%
GCI:	GNCMA	9.29	(2.63%)	(5.11%)
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	LBTYA	61.65	(1.06%)	50.26%
LIBERTY INT:	LINTA	19.08	(2.35%)	17.63%
SHAW COMM:	SJR	22.68	0.00%	17.09%
TIME WARNER CABLE:	TWC	95.18	(0.52%)	49.72%
VIRGIN MEDIA:	VMED	36.41	(0.08%)	70.30%
WASH POST:	WPO	361.89	0.18%	(3.96%)

Company	Ticker	12/28 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
PROGRAMMING				
AMC NETWORKS:	AMCX	49.18	(1.34%)	30.87%
CBS:	CBS	36.85	(1.21%)	35.78%
CROWN:	CRWN	1.80	(1.64%)	48.76%
DISCOVERY:	DISCA	61.89	(1.78%)	51.06%
GRUPO TELEvisa:	TV	26.12	(1.4%)	24.03%
HSN:	HSNI	54.15	(1.85%)	49.34%
INTERACTIVE CORP:	IACI	46.23	(0.47%)	8.52%
LIONSGATE:	LGF	15.84	0.89%	90.38%
LODGENET:	LNET	0.08	(11.11%)	(96.65%)
OUTDOOR:	OUTD	7.53	0.94%	0.94%
SCRIPPS INT:	SNI	56.62	(2.01%)	33.47%
TIME WARNER:	TWX	46.93	(1.41%)	29.86%
VALUEVISION:	VVTV	1.75	6.06%	(6.91%)
VIACOM:	VIA	53.22	(0.49%)	(0.21%)
WWE:	WWE	7.72	(3.5%)	(17.17%)

Company	Ticker	12/28 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
TECHNOLOGY				
ADVANTAGE:	AEY	1.98	(0.5%)	(5.71%)
ALCATEL LUCENT:	ALU	1.35	(2.17%)	(13.46%)
AMDOCS:	DOX	33.61	(2.01%)	17.81%
AMPHENOL:	APH	63.59	(2.03%)	40.10%
AOL:	AOL	29.43	(3.22%)	94.90%
APPLE:	AAPL	509.59	(1.48%)	25.82%
ARRIS GROUP:	ARRS	14.73	(3.98%)	36.14%
AVID TECH:	AVID	7.40	(2.89%)	(13.25%)
BLNDER TONGUE:	BDR	1.12	4.67%	(8.2%)
BROADCOM:	BRCM	32.48	(1.84%)	10.63%
CISCO:	CSCO	19.45	(2.51%)	7.57%
CLEARWIRE:	CLWR	2.88	0.00%	48.45%
CONCURRENT:	CCUR	5.48	(0.36%)	44.59%
CONVERGYS:	CVG	16.03	(1.66%)	25.53%
CSG SYSTEMS:	CSGS	17.88	(4.64%)	21.55%
ECHOSTAR:	SATS	33.70	(1.89%)	60.94%
GOOGLE:	GOOG	700.01	(2.21%)	8.38%
HARMONIC:	HLIT	4.96	0.00%	(1.59%)
INTEL:	INTC	20.23	(2.41%)	(16.58%)
JDSU:	JDSU	13.16	(0.23%)	26.05%

Company	Ticker	12/28 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
LEVEL 3:	LVL	22.54	(1.4%)	32.67%
MICROSOFT:	MSFT	26.55	(2.75%)	2.27%
RENTRAK:	RENT	19.32	(6.21%)	35.29%
SEACHANGE:	SEAC	9.46	(1.87%)	34.57%
SONY:	SNE	11.01	0.82%	(38.97%)
SPRINT NEXTEL:	S	5.60	2.56%	139.32%
TIVO:	TIVO	12.26	(0.97%)	36.68%
UNIVERSAL ELEC:	UEIC	18.08	(4.49%)	7.17%
VONAGE:	VG	2.30	(5.35%)	(6.12%)
YAHOO:	YHOO	19.50	0.93%	20.89%

Company	Ticker	12/28 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
TELCOS				
AT&T:	T	33.32	(1.3%)	10.19%
VERIZON:	VZ	42.90	(1.56%)	6.93%

Company	Ticker	12/28 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
MARKET INDICES				
DOW:	DJI	12938.11	(1.5%)	5.90%
S&P 500:	GSPC	1402.43	(1.94%)	11.52%

WINNERS & LOSERS

THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE WINNERS

COMPANY	CLOSE	1-WK CH
1. VALUEVISION:	1.75	6.06%
2. BLNDER TONGUE:	1.12	4.67%
3. SPRINT NEXTEL:	5.60	2.56%
4. CABLEVISION:	14.73	1.87%
5. OUTDOOR:	7.53	0.94%

THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE LOSERS

COMPANY	CLOSE	1-WK CH
1. LODGENET:	0.08	(11.11%)
2. RENTRAK:	19.32	(6.21%)
3. VONAGE:	2.30	(5.35%)
4. CSG SYSTEMS:	17.88	(4.64%)
5. UNIVERSAL ELEC:	18.08	(4.49%)

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OTT Musings: Stakeholders Debate Evolving Content Delivery at CES
 With the Comcast/Disney distribution deal a harbinger for TV Everywhere and Fox's move last summer to put select content behind a pay wall, panelists mulled the ins and outs of over-the-top delivery at an OTT panel at CES. "The tablet, the device, is going to control the TV experience at U-verse," said Jeff Weber, AT&T VP, product and strategy, noting the company's drive into tablet apps and model of providing APIs for developers to send content from device to television. But discernment is critical, panelists agreed. While AT&T has an approval process in place, YouTube abandoned its API-based partnership model two years ago "because we ended up with different apps on diff TV, and performance differed," said Francisco Valera, dir/global head of platform and games partnerships. Touting YouTube's deals with Samsung, LG and its new Xbox partnership, "if we can't control the app, and update features quickly, it's a lost cause," he said. YouTube's recent-day model of investment in original content will stretch the company's presence in specific categories such as "niche cooking and unique travel" channels. "We don't see ourselves becoming a large studio, but we're more than dogs on skateboards," Valera quipped. "We want to bring in proven providers of broadcast quality content that's not sustainable in the cable universe," Valera said. YouTube is working on its fourth UI, and moving toward the HTML 5 standard. Noting that unlike other video distributors YouTube always owns its TV and mobile content rights, "Can we bring our content to an AT&T, Cox or Comcast? We can, and that's where we are excited," he said. Initial deals with distributors are rolling out in Europe and Asia, he said. At Cox, focus remains on the UI. "It's important to get the user interface right, especially as more content is added in," said Lisa Pickelsimer, executive director, video product development. Integrated search, recommendations and social media will become more key, Pickelsimer said, noting the bigger role of metadata and the need