

# CableFAX Daily™

Monday — January 7, 2013

What the Industry Reads First

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## Broadcast Tales: Bankruptcy, Retrans Stories as Some Stations Remain Dark

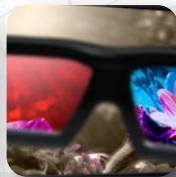
When a broadcast station goes dark around the first of the year, a retrans consent dispute is usually to blame. But that's not always the case. **WAZE**, a **CW** affiliate in Evansville, IN, went dark Thurs, according to **WOW!**. The MVPD alerted its customers on social media, saying the channel unexpectedly went dark, and it was not its decision to drop the channel. The channel was off for everyone, including **Time Warner Cable**. **WOW!** svp, programming *Peter Smith* said one of the overbuilder's engineers saw the channel was dark Thurs and was told that it's no longer broadcasting. **WAZE** is a low-power station owned by St Louis-based **Roberts Broadcasting**, which filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2011. Attempts to reach Roberts Bcstg were unsuccessful Fri. Last Mar, the *St Louis Business Journal* reported creditors had filed 23 claims totaling \$3.58mln against the company owned by *Michael* and *Steven Roberts*. Court records show that the broadcaster filed several objections to claims on Thurs. *Thomas DeWoskin*, a lawyer representing Roberts, did not comment for this story. Roberts also owns **My Network** affil **WRBU** in St Louis and CW affil **WZRB** in Columbia, SC. It announced in Oct that it had agreed to sell CW affil **WRBJ** in Jackson, MS, to **TBN** for \$1.5mln. It appeared that **WZRB** and **WRBU** were still on the air Fri. In Nov, the *St Louis Business Journal* reported that a federal judge had entered a \$35.9mln consent judgment against Michael and Steven Roberts in a lawsuit brought by **Bank of America** over loans due on 6 hotels the brothers owned. In other broadcasting news, **Fox** O&Os did not go dark on **Suddenlink** at 12:01am ET Fri. Around 11pm ET Thurs, the 2 announced a new deal in principal for the stations as well as **Fox Networks'** cable channels, including **FX**, **Nat Geo** and multiple Fox RSNs. **Suddenlink** said the current deal between the companies was extended for another week while they work out details of the new agreement. It did look a little hairy around 8pm, with **Suddenlink** issuing an update that said it was waiting for Fox to respond to a proposal that would have it either carry just the O&Os, **FX** and the Fox regional sports nets or offer the cable nets a la carte. **Suddenlink** said **News Corp** could set a price for each cable net, and customers would pay for the channels they wanted, with **Suddenlink** submitting 100% of that money to Fox. While details of the pending deal weren't released, it's a safe bet that the a la carte isn't coming. Meanwhile, **Cox** and **Raycom** are still fighting. "We're trying to keep the cost of cable television reasonable. If we were forced to pay what **Raycom** is demanding, our customers' bills would be affected," **Cox** said Fri as the 2 continue to argue over what is

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a fair rate. Affected stations include **CBS** affil **WUAB** in Cleveland, which means Cox subs could miss the AFC wild card game between the Colts and Ravens Sun if a deal doesn't get done. WUAB and stations in Baton Rouge, LA; Tucson, AZ; Panama City, FL; Richmond-Petersburg, VA; and Lake Charles, LA, have been dark since Jan 1.

**People Moves:** Hulu CEO *Jason Kilar* will leave the firm 1Q, according to an internal email from Kilar that Hulu posted on its blog. CTO *Rich Tom* will leave as well, with roughly the same departure date. Kilar said the decision was difficult, but didn't share much beyond that. Kilar said he plans to be involved in steering the company for much of 1Q. Kilar joined Hulu in June '07, shortly after it was launched. -- Long-time **E!** ent programming pres *Lisa Berger* said she will leave her post after 9 years. "My time at E! has been an amazing experience both professionally and personally, and it is hard to sum up nearly a decade of show launches, milestone moments and incredible friendships," she said. "Although it won't be easy for me to say goodbye, I look forward to sharing the news of my next challenge in the months ahead." E! pres *Suzanne Kolb* said Berger's talent and creative vision have been invaluable.

**M&A:** Buyer wanted for **Rovi's** entertainment store unit. As part of Rovi's strategy to focus on growth opportunities in "core enabling technologies and services," the company is putting its Rovi Entertainment Store business, which powers OTT storefronts and cloud-based entertainment, up for sale. As a result of the decision, Rovi will reclassify the operating results of the unit as discontinued operations starting with its 4Q and full year '12 results. Rovi acquired the business, then RoxioNow, when it acquired **Sonic Solutions** in early '11 for about \$720mln. "The Rovi Entertainment Store has grown significantly since Rovi acquired it in February 2011..." said *Tom Carson*, pres/CEO of Rovi. "However, we are working to drive Rovi's future growth and increase operational efficiencies around a strategic plan building on our core assets and IP, and to ensure the management team is fully focused on that effort." The company also updated estimates for fiscal year '12, expecting all-year revenue to be between \$645mln and \$650mln. It had said it anticipated '12 revenue to be between \$660mln and \$670mln in Nov. The company's hosting an investor conference in Vegas during the **CES** on Jan 9.

**Rebranding:** **Food Network's** set to upgrade its look as it readies for its 20th birthday. The revamp, effective Sun, will be seen on-air with a new logo and graphics package, followed by a roll-out across all brands and platforms. The net's refresh strategy aims to "inspire new ways of connecting" to the brand while also preserving "what fans have come to know and trust..." the net said. "Food Network has grown and we wanted to freshen-up our look and energy to better reflect our evolution into a broader, multi-platform entertainment brand," *Susie Fogelson*, svp, marketing and brand strategy, Food Net and **Cooking Channel**, said in a statement.

**Launch Pad:** **M-GO**, the new digital entertainment service, launched a public beta Fri. The M-GO pay-as-you-go streaming service helps customers find, rent, and shop for digital entertainment across platforms. The service allows consumers in the US to access movies and TV shows on the platform without committing to subscription fees. M-GO, a jv between **DreamWorks Animation** and **Technicolor**, is teaming with **Intel**, **Samsung** and **Vizio**, to preload the service on their devices. It will partner with more CE makers like LG Electronics and RCA this year. M-GO also debuted a new licensing agreement with **Starz Digital**, further expanding its content library. It already landed direct content licensing deals with major distributors like **NBCU**, **Warner Bros**, **Digital Distribution** and **20th Century Fox**.

**Editor's Note:** The rest of today's issue will be devoted to the **Television Critics Assn** tour now unfolding in CA. Enjoy!

**Turner at TCA:** **Turner** is expanding its unscripted slate with 3 **TNT** shows and **TBS's** "King of the Nerds." The latter series, (Jan 17 premiere) is a reality competition show where the best nerd wins. Hosts and executive producers *Robert Carradine* and *Curtis Armstrong*, two original cast members from the 1984 film *Revenge of the Nerds*, take 11 contestants through unique, intellectual challenges. "The idea is to celebrate nerd culture," said Armstrong. Exec prod *Ben Silverman* added that from an industry advertising perspective, the much-coveted nerd demo is "watching more content than ever," but on various platforms. "It's just about where the show is," he said, and he praised cable's "opportunity to tell stories in new environments." -- TNT's "The Hero," (premieres summer '13) executive produced by *Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson*, challenges 10 contestants to undergo missions, each testing their skills, intellect and physicality and challenging them to become heroes. The Rock will serve as a mentor to the contestants throughout their challenges. The tough choices they'll be forced to make will "bring out the best and maybe the worst in people," he said, but the ultimate goal is for each person to "leave a better person." -- TNT's "72 Hours" reality show (summer '13 premiere) drops 3 teams of

strangers in the wilderness, equips them with a bottle of water, a GPS and the clothes on their backs, and challenges them to search for briefcases of cash. The lack of resources provided makes the story about people coming together in an “extreme condition of depravity,” said exec prod Howard Schultz. — Exec prod of “Boston’s Finest” Donnie Wahlberg assured critics that his upcoming unscripted series following Boston police officers is “1,000 miles away from ‘Cops.’” If he created a Boston version of the popular cop show, “I would not be allowed back in the city,” he said. While reality show producers are swarming Boston looking for a Jersey Shore-type show with characters that say “chowdah,” Walbergh said he’s passionate about the city’s day-to-day heroes. -- No, we don’t really need more medical dramas, but TNT’s “Monday Mornings” takes a decidedly fresh look at the hospital game by focusing on the weekly closed-door meetings doctors hold to assess medical errors—and put themselves on the spot. Based on a book by **CNN** medical contributor *Sanjay Gupta*, the show sheds light on a little-known aspect of hospital life, with exec prod *David E. Kelley* joking that exec prod Gupta is so involved in the show that “he’s probably the highest paid P.A. we’ve ever had.” Star power includes *Alfred Molina*, who noted that he likes retaining his natural British accent for the role because it creates “distance” between his hard-edged character and the rest of the staff. “I can be sexually ambivalent as well,” he joked. “There’s gay, and there’s straight, and there’s British.” -- TBS also showcased its broadcast acquisition “Cougar Town,” which used to air on ABC and will on Jan 8 become a major part of TBS’ comedy block. Exec producer *Bill Lawrence* famously went rogue during the last winter tour as ABC was dithering about whether to renew the series, bringing in the cast himself and booking an entire bar out of his own pocket for critics. When ABC dropped the show, TBS pounced. It didn’t hurt that Lawrence took the show on the road to build support with fans, although he noted wryly to critics that he never found a single fan with a Nielsen box.

**NatGeo at TCA:** --**NatGeo’s** “Killing Lincoln” (winter ‘13 premiere), based on **Fox News’** *Bill O’Reilly’s* historical narrative of the same name, focuses exclusively on the assassination, according to writer *Erik Jendresen*. The film will show a “very intimate look” at the president and portray “the man at home,” he said. While high school history books tend to “skate over the top of history,” he said, “the true story is so much more fascinating... This is not the act of someone who could be easily dismissed as a psychopath... [John Wilkes Booth] just got it so wrong.” Jendresen compared the political climate and viewpoints of the time to today’s, evening likening JWB to modern-day conservatives. “He could be a poster child for the Tea Party,” he said. Actor *Billy Campbell* of **AMC’s** “The Killing” fame told critics his portrayal of Lincoln was inspired by the script alone, which “was so brilliant and deep in its own way... it was all on the page... And it was Erik in my ear. That was all of it for me.” -- Get out the parachute pants and bad hairstyles for NatGeo’s mini-series “The ‘80s” (premieres Spring), which takes a sometimes light and sometimes serious look at the “me” decade. Exec producer *Jane Root* of **Nutopia** said she avoided mostly trivial subjects (like that horrible hair) and instead focused on trends that greatly influenced the modern world. For example, *Jane Fonda* injured herself on the set of *The China Syndrome* and then “stumbled upon aerobics” to get back in shape for her next role. “Gyms happened as a result of that accident,” said Root, not to mention a home video market after her aerobics tapes hit the streets. Another example: When hip-hop group Run-DMC produced an updated version of Aerosmith’s “Walk This Way,” whose video in which a wall comes down between the 2 acts is credited with merging rap and rock. “When we knocked the door down, that’s what we were doing with music,” said Run DMC founder *Darryl McDaniels*. -- *Kenny Licklider*, owner and founder of **Vohne Liche Kennels** and star of **NatGeo Wild’s** “Alpha Dogs” series on military and police dogs (premieres Feb 8), gave critics a training demo with the lovely pup “Daisy.” What motivates the canines? It’s pretty simple: tennis balls. NatGeo Wild’s evp, gm *Geoff Daniels* said he was most impressed with the trainers’ passion and commitment to the dogs. “They create a hero school,” he said. -- **NatGeo Channels** pres *Howard Owens* told critics that the net will continue with high-profile projects. “There’s been a big investment in series television,” he said. “Also in making our specials special... We have the benefit of having a brand that’s 125 years old.” While “some would say that’s old and dusty,” he said, “I think we have that soul and DNA right down to our core.” He added that the network is “not bound by TV rules” from both a production and distribution standpoint. Its goal is to “take chances and risks and be different.”

**A&E at TCA:** **A&E** takes a dark turn with its new thriller series “Bates Motel,” best described as an updated (and completely re-imagined) prequel to *Alfred Hitchcock’s* 1960 masterpiece *Psycho*. Exec prod *Carlton Cuse* of “Lost” fame said it’s a complete departure from the *Psycho* films, and that setting the series in modern times instead of the ‘60s “gave us the freedom to take these characters wherever we wanted to... Making it contemporary was a way to really become liberated from the original movie.” That also means some amped up violence, including a brutal sexual assault in the pilot, but exec prod *Kerry Ehrin* insisted “this show isn’t about violence” but rather exploring the intricate (and uncomfortable) relationship between future serial killer Norman (*Freddie Highmore*) and his soon-to-be-stuffed mother (*Vera Farmiga*). OK, maybe it’s a little about violence. Despite the heavy subject matter, Cuse kept the panel light, at one point assuring critics who thought “Lost” was a bit cryptic that he’ll keep things less confusing this time. “No polar bears, no smoke monsters,” he said. “Time travel? I don’t know.” He was kidding. We think.

CableFAX Week in Review

Company	Ticker	1/04 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
<b>BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS</b>				
DIRECTV:	DTV	51.14	3.48%	1.95%
DISH:	DISH	36.89	4.12%	1.35%
DISNEY:	DIS	52.19	6.19%	4.82%
GE:	GE	21.20	3.72%	1.00%
NEWS CORP:	NWS	27.03	6.92%	3.01%
<b>MSOS</b>				
CABLEVISION:	CVC	15.31	3.94%	2.48%
CHARTER:	CHTR	77.60	5.46%	1.78%
COMCAST:	CMCSA	38.07	2.28%	1.90%
COMCAST SPCL:	CMCSK	36.63	4.05%	1.99%
GCI:	GNCMA	9.37	0.86%	(2.29%)
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	LBTYA	65.47	6.20%	3.99%
LIBERTY INT:	LINTA	20.51	7.49%	4.22%
SHAW COMM:	SJR	23.14	2.03%	0.70%
TIME WARNER CABLE:	TWC	97.75	2.70%	0.58%
VIRGIN MEDIA:	VMED	37.37	2.64%	1.69%
WASH POST:	WPO	375.79	3.84%	2.90%

Company	Ticker	1/04 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
<b>PROGRAMMING</b>				
AMC NETWORKS:	AMCX	51.22	4.15%	3.47%
CBS:	CBS	38.65	4.88%	1.58%
CROWN:	CRWN	1.98	8.20%	7.03%
DISCOVERY:	DISCA	66.08	6.77%	4.10%
GRUPO TELEVISA:	TV	27.69	6.01%	4.18%
HSN:	HSNI	57.57	6.32%	4.52%
INTERACTIVE CORP:	IACI	46.94	1.54%	(0.64%)
LIONSGATE:	LGF	17.36	9.60%	5.85%
LODGENET:	LNET	0.04	(50%)	(20%)
OUTDOOR:	OUTD	7.76	3.05%	2.11%
SCRIPPS INT:	SNI	58.31	0.92%	0.67%
TIME WARNER:	TWX	49.37	5.20%	3.22%
VALUEVISION:	VVTV	1.83	4.57%	1.67%
VIACOM:	VIA	58.44	9.80%	7.68%
WWE:	WWE	8.09	4.79%	2.53%

Company	Ticker	1/04 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>				
ADVANTAGE:	AEY	2.07	4.65%	4.12%
ALCATEL LUCENT:	ALU	1.64	21.48%	17.99%
AMDOCS:	DOX	34.38	2.29%	1.15%
AMPHENOL:	APH	66.94	5.27%	3.46%
AOL:	AOL	30.38	3.23%	2.60%
APPLE:	AAPL	527.00	3.42%	(0.97%)
ARRIS GROUP:	ARRS	15.29	3.80%	2.34%
AVID TECH:	AVID	7.82	2.62%	3.17%
BLNDER TONGUE:	BDR	1.15	7.40%	(0.07%)
BROADCOM:	BRCM	34.44	6.03%	3.70%
CISCO:	CSCO	20.48	5.31%	4.23%
CLEARWIRE:	CLWR	2.88	0.00%	(0.35%)
CONCURRENT:	CCUR	6.23	13.69%	8.54%
CONVERGYS:	CVG	17.16	7.05%	4.57%
CSG SYSTEMS:	CSGS	19.20	7.38%	5.61%
ECHOSTAR:	SATS	34.74	3.09%	1.52%
GOOGLE:	GOOG	737.97	5.42%	4.32%
HARMONIC:	HLIT	5.17	4.23%	1.97%
INTEL:	INTC	21.16	4.60%	2.62%
JDSU:	JDSU	13.83	5.09%	2.44%

Company	Ticker	1/04 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
<b>BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS</b>				
DIRECTV:	DTV	51.14	3.48%	1.95%
LEVEL 3:	LFLT	24.68	9.49%	6.79%
MICROSOFT:	MSFT	26.74	(2.05%)	0.11%
RENTRAK:	RENT	19.96	3.31%	2.41%
SEACHANGE:	SEAC	10.15	7.29%	4.96%
SONY:	SNE	11.14	1.18%	(0.54%)
SPRINT NEXTEL:	S	5.92	5.71%	4.41%
TIVO:	TIVO	12.40	1.14%	0.73%
UNIVERSAL ELEC:	UEIC	18.89	4.48%	(2.38%)
VONAGE:	VG	2.38	(2.06%)	0.42%
YAHOO:	YHOO	19.86	1.85%	(0.2%)

Company	Ticker	1/04 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
<b>TELCOS</b>				
AT&T:	T	35.23	5.73%	4.51%
VERIZON:	VZ	44.30	3.26%	2.38%

Company	Ticker	1/04 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
<b>MARKET INDICES</b>				
DOW:	DJI	13435.21	3.84%	2.53%
S&P 500:	GSPC	1466.47	4.57%	2.82%

WINNERS & LOSERS

THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE WINNERS

COMPANY	CLOSE	1-WK CH
1. ALCATEL LUCENT:	1.64	21.48%
2. CONCURRENT:	6.23	13.69%
3. VIACOM:	58.44	9.80%
4. LIONSGATE:	17.36	9.60%
5. LEVEL 3:	24.68	9.49%

THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE LOSERS

COMPANY	CLOSE	1-WK CH
1. LODGENET:	0.04	(50%)
2. VONAGE:	2.38	(2.06%)
3. MICROSOFT:	26.74	(2.05%)
4. CLEARWIRE:	2.88	0.00%
5. NASDAQ:	3050.39	0.00%

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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