

CableFAX Daily™

Monday — February 5, 2007

What the Industry Reads First

Volume 18 / No. 24

Down to the Wire: Sinclair, Mediacom Finally Strike Retrans Deal

Perhaps it was Super Bowl Sunday's looming shadow. Or maybe it was that strongly worded letter from Sen Commerce chmn *Daniel Inouye* (D-HI) and vice chmn *Ted Stevens* (R-AK). Whatever the final straw that forced a compromise, Mediacom announced late Fri that it has reached a retrans consent deal with Sinclair. Some 700K subs have been without Sinclair stations since Jan 6. Terms of the deal were not released. The pact means subs in Cedar Rapids, IA—the only Sinclair CBS affiliate in Mediacom's footprint—will be able to watch Sun's Super Bowl without relying on rabbit ears. The following stations will be immediately restored on the Mediacom cable systems in 12 states: Des Moines/Ames (KDSM-FOX), Cedar Rapids (KGAN-CBS), Mobile/Pensacola (WEARABC/WFGX-MNT), Peoria/Bloomington (WYZZ-FOX), Greenville/Spartanburg/Asheville (WLOSABC/WMYA-MNT), Lexington (WDKY-FOX), Madison (WMSN-FOX), Nashville (WZTV-FOX/WUXP-MNT/WNAB-CW), Minneapolis (WUCW-CW), Paducah/Cape Girardeau (KBSI-FOX/WDKAMNT), Springfield/Champaign/Decatur (WICS-ABC/WICD-ABC), St. Louis (KDNL-ABC), Tallahassee (WTWC-NBC), Birmingham (WTTO-CW/WABM-MNT), Norfolk (WTVZ-MNT) and Milwaukee (WCGV-MNT/WVTV-CW).

HDefining Moment: Super Bowl Feed May Disappoint Some Cable Subs

As the Colts and Bears prepared to lock horns Sun for the NFL title, HD cable customers in at least 5 US markets have been gored by retrans consent impasses. As of presstime Fri, **Time Warner Cable** and **Granite Broadcasting** had failed to forge an agreement for the **CBS HD** signal in Binghamton, NY; **Charter** and **Belo** had yet to become teammates in St. Louis or New Orleans; and **Comcast** faced opposition from **Lin Broadcasting** and **Nexstar** in Albuquerque and Altoona, PA, respectively. The chance for deals in these locales before Sun's Super Bowl kickoff was looking slim, which was set to irk more than a few people. After all, sports fans love HD content and, with regard to American athletics, the Super Bowl is the pinnacle. 2.5mln people plan to purchase a new TV strictly for the big game, according to **RAMA**. Maybe Charter should have considered this data before dropping the HD signal of Belo-owned KMOV and WWL early last month. A spokesperson said the MSO has attempted "several times" to spur discussions for pre-Super Bowl signal restoration, to no avail. A Belo spokesperson disagrees, saying that Charter has yet to respond to an agreement proposal. Time Warner had success in this arena in HI, if not Binghamton, as **Oceanic Time Warner Cable** hammered out Thurs a Sun-only pact with **Emmis Comm** that affects 25K subs. Meanwhile Comcast offers CBS HD in 85 of its 88 markets (the signal is not offered in 1), but hasn't made headway in the affected pair.

Kids & Media: With Congress again turning its eyes toward TV content, **Cox** is taking another step to educate parents about media decisions. The MSO will announce a partnership Mon with **Common Sense Media** aimed at helping parents make informed choices. Common Sense Media (www.common sense media.org) is a national non-partisan organization that provides ratings and reviews of media based on child development criteria. Cox plans to integrate the group's



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reviews and recommendations into its 2-year-old "Take Charge!" initiative, launching a co-branded section on its www.cox.com/takecharge Website. The 2 will also conduct media literacy workshops for parents and teachers.

Storm Stories: Comcast was assessing damage Fri morning after a series of tornadoes struck central FL overnight, killing 14 and destroying dozens of homes. All employees were accounted for and OK, a rep said. Most outages in the area, which includes Lady Lake, resulted from a loss of power. There was 1 fiber cut, but it had already been fixed by 1pm Fri. A spokeswoman said Fri afternoon that 4-7 nodes were affected, with the bulk of those directly relating to the power outage. **Bright House** reported that 4 employees in its Central FL div suffered significant damage to their homes. The MSO has given them emergency, paid time off, and some technicians are helping them get settled. Most of Bright House's storm problems stemmed from power outages, though one fiber cut was quickly repaired. Bright House's **Central Florida News 13** has teamed with the Red Cross to man an emergency phone bank for donations and info.

In the States: Time Warner Cable confirmed that it terminated on Jan 25 a 566-day test in San Diego of cable TV delivery to PCs. The MSO had been providing certain customers with 75 channels of basic service via broadband.

Bomb Scare Fallout: As Turner chmn/CEO *Phil Kent* apologized Fri to Bostonians for **Cartoon Net's** marketing stunt through city newspaper ads, city *Mayor Thomas Menino* reportedly said Turner has agreed to pay associated costs. A Turner spokeswoman said she couldn't yet confirm that. MA atty gen *Martha Coakley* said late Fri that parties "are close to reaching finality in a resolution," with hopes of announcing a settlement amount as soon as Mon. The *Boston Globe* reported Fri that the response of the Boston police, trans authority and police from nearby cities could have cost \$1mln.

Pay Up: Viacom is asking **YouTube** to remove more than 100K unauthorized clips from its site. "After months of ongoing discussions with YouTube and **Google**, it has become clear that YouTube is unwilling to come to a fair market agreement that would make Viacom content available to YouTube users," Viacom said. **UBS** views the move as a negotiating measure. "We think Google pays up now, in the early days, to establish its long-term position. We think its an excellent use of capital, though it may pressure margins," the investment firm said in a note to clients.

Online: Streaming startup **VDC.com** has stopped carrying QVC's live feed Thurs. The programmer informed VDC that it no longer had approval to carry the channel. Late last month, **AOL** began streaming QVC online.

Competition: EchoStar added **A&E HD** to its high-def lineup, bringing the number of HD channels to 31. -- **Uverseusers.com** reports that **AT&T** has started contacting customers in Austin, St. Louis and LA to begin testing U-verse in these areas as early as this month. -- Taking a page out of **Comcast** and **Time Warner Cable's** recently announced business services playbook, **AT&T** has broken ground on a fiber-based tech infrastructure to deliver voice/data services to the 5.2mln-sq-ft DuPage National Technology Park in Chicago. -- **Qwest** opened in Seattle its 14th nationwide "CyberCenter," designed to provide secure and scalable hosting services to businesses.

New on Cable360: Be sure to check out **CableWorld** editor *Seth Arenstein's* blog about **NFL Net's** Sat presentation of the legendary Super Bowl III, pitting *Joe Namath's* NY Jets against the then Baltimore Colts. www.cable360.net.

Ratings: The season finale of **Bravo's** "Top Chef" was the #1 cable program Wed night, besting **ABC's** "Primetime" in head-to-head competition in viewers 18-49 (2.879 vs 2.705). The show notched a 3.89 rating among total viewers.



CHOP IS THE NEW KING OF LATE NIGHT

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A&E

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CableFAX Week in Review

Company	Ticker	2/02 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS				
BRITISH SKY:	BSY	44.64	4.80%	8.30%
DIRECTV:	DTV	23.97	(0.5%)	(3.9%)
DISNEY:	DIS	35.18	1.80%	4.50%
ECHOSTAR:	DISH	40.38	2.50%	6.20%
GE:	GE	36.27	0.60%	(1.8%)
HEARST-ARGYLE:	HTV	26.03	(0.5%)	2.40%
ION MEDIA:	ION	1.24	1.60%	148.00%
NEWS CORP:	NWS	24.44	1.80%	9.80%
TRIBUNE:	TRB	30.62	1.60%	(0.5%)

Company	Ticker	2/02 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
MSOS				
CABLEVISION:	CVC	29.59	(2.7%)	3.90%
CHARTER:	CHTR	3.36	2.80%	9.80%
COMCAST:	CMCSA	43.07	(0.5%)	1.70%
COMCAST SPCL:	CMCSK	42.33	(0.4%)	1.10%
GCI:	GNCMA	15.50	0.10%	(1.5%)
KNOLOGY:	KNOL	13.10	5.40%	23.10%
LIBERTY CAPITAL:	LCAPA	104.41	4.30%	6.60%
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	LBTYA	29.86	0.40%	2.40%
LIBERTY INTERACTIVE:	LINTA	24.39	0.40%	13.10%
MEDIACOM:	MCCC	8.04	3.70%	
NTL:	NTLI	26.99	0.90%	6.90%
ROGERS COMM:	RG	30.68	(5%)	3.20%
SHAW COMM:	SJR	35.97	(1.4%)	14.10%
TIME WARNER:	TWX	21.75	(0.3%)	(0.1%)
WASH POST:	WPO	750.40	(1.4%)	0.60%

Company	Ticker	2/02 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
PROGRAMMING				
CBS:	CBS	31.35	2.40%	0.50%
CROWN:	CRWN	4.20	1.40%	15.70%
DISCOVERY:	DISCA	16.58	0.90%	3.00%
EW SCRIPPS:	SSP	49.10	(6.3%)	(1.7%)
GRUPO TELEVISIA:	TV	29.36	0.60%	8.70%
INTERACTIVE CORP:	IACI	38.63	2.40%	4.00%
LODGENET:	LNET	28.06	4.10%	12.10%
NEW FRONTIER:	NOOF	9.41	5.40%	4.20%
OUTDOOR:	OUTD	13.79	5.80%	7.50%
PLAYBOY:	PLA	10.97	(2.6%)	(4.3%)
UNIVISION:	UVN	35.88	(0.2%)	1.30%
VALUEVISION:	VVTV	12.41	3.10%	(5.6%)
VIACOM:	VIA	41.08	3.20%	0.20%
WWE:	WWE	16.19	1.60%	2.30%

Company	Ticker	2/02 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
TECHNOLOGY				
3COM:	COMS	3.91	(0.8%)	(4.9%)
ADC:	ADCT	16.65	2.10%	14.70%
ADDVANTAGE:	AEY	2.99	(1.6%)	7.20%
AMDOCS:	DOX	34.80	(0.6%)	(10.2%)
AMPHENOL:	APH	67.74	1.40%	9.20%
ARRIS GROUP:	ARRS	14.35	6.80%	14.70%
AVID TECH:	AVID	34.99	(4.7%)	(6.1%)
BLNDER TONGUE:	BDR	1.93	0.50%	13.50%
BROADCOM:	BRCM	32.35	3.00%	0.10%
C-COR:	CCBL	13.23	(1%)	18.80%
CISCO:	CSCO	27.14	3.00%	(0.7%)
COMMSCOPE:	CTV	32.56	0.20%	6.80%
CONCURRENT:	CCUR	1.43	(5.3%)	(21%)

Company	Ticker	2/02 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
CONVERGYS:	CVG	26.24	3.00%	10.30%
CSG SYSTEMS:	CSGS	25.15	1.40%	(5.9%)
GEMSTAR TVG:	GMST	4.20	7.70%	4.70%
GOOGLE:	GOOG	481.50	(2.9%)	4.60%
HARMONIC:	HLIT	9.18	3.50%	26.30%
JDSU:	JDSU	16.49	(5.5%)	(1%)
LEVEL 3:	LVL3	6.09	(3.6%)	8.80%
LUCENT:	LU	2.55		
MICROSOFT:	MSFT	30.19	(1.3%)	1.10%
MOTOROLA:	MOT	19.85	8.00%	(3%)
NDS:	NNDS	46.90	(3.3%)	(2.8%)
NORTEL:	NT	26.98		0.90%
OPENTV:	OPTV	2.53	7.20%	9.10%
PHILIPS:	PHG	38.82	0.20%	3.30%
RENTRAK:	RENT	16.29	0.10%	5.10%
SEACHANGE:	SEAC	10.40	(1.5%)	1.80%
SONY:	SNE	47.61	(0.5%)	11.20%
SPRINT NEXTEL:	S	17.72	1.30%	(6.2%)
THOMAS & BETTS:	TNB	49.16	3.00%	4.00%
TIVO:	TIVO	5.68	5.00%	10.90%
TOLLGRADE:	TLGD	11.69	19.50%	10.60%
UNIVERSAL ELEC:	UEIC	21.00	3.30%	(0.1%)
VONAGE:	VG	5.38	(10.5%)	(22.5%)
VYYO:	VYYO	4.33	4.30%	(4.4%)
WEBB SYS:	WEBB	0.04		
WORLDGATE:	WGAT	1.26		(6%)
YAHOO:	YHOO	28.77	2.60%	12.60%

Company	Ticker	2/02 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
TELCOS				
AT&T:	T	38.12	5.70%	7.60%
QWEST:	Q	8.18	(2%)	(2.3%)
VERIZON:	VZ	38.17	2.00%	3.60%

Index	Value	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg	
MARKET INDICES				
DOW:	INDU	12653.49	1.30%	1.50%
NASDAQ:	COMPX	2475.88	1.70%	2.50%

WINNERS & LOSERS

THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE WINNERS

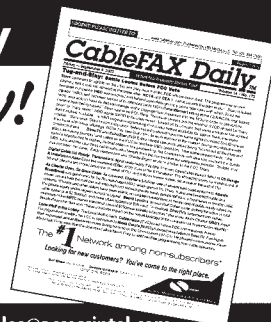
COMPANY	CLOSE	1-WK CH
1. TOLLGRADE:	11.69	19.50%
2. MOTOROLA:	19.85	8.00%
3. GEMSTAR TVG:	4.20	7.70%
4. OPENTV:	2.53	7.20%
5. ARRIS GROUP:	14.35	6.80%

THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE LOSERS

COMPANY	CLOSE	1-WK CH
1. VONAGE:	5.38	(10.5%)
2. EW SCRIPPS:	49.10	(6.3%)
3. JDSU:	16.49	(5.5%)
4. CONCURRENT:	1.43	(5.3%)
5. ROGERS COMM:	30.68	(5%)

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MaxFAX...

Ah, Winter

*Thirty days hath September,
April, June and November.
All the rest have thirty-one,
Except February... which is a little
out of sorts.*

(Actually, I have a bit of a scatological ending to this couplet).



Paul S. Maxwell

Like the cable industry dealing with the Federal Confusion Commission. Was inside the Beltway last week... just as winter ventured

into the District area, too.

Meanwhile, it was snowing in Denver; which, this year, looks more like Chicago with dirty snow piled everywhere. Five weekends in a row blessed with snow. And all without adequate snow removal. Can't even drive one of my cars! Ruts, valleys and ice on the side roads! (My car is much too low to the ground. So sad).

And not as much snow across the street (well, across the valley of the Blue River from my house) on the Breckenridge trails as there should be... I, for one, believe in global climate instability.

Out of touch, once again (reminds me of the early '70s when I got home from that war we lost) with my government.

Random Notes:

• **OK, I've Got a Great Promotion!** It'll Really Make Folks Pay Attention! Just kidding. I wouldn't really do that! NO! NEVER! How could you make me do that? Well, maybe this once.

• **War Is Serious!** Really. I know. I did mine. And even the "war" on terror is quite serious.

• **Cartoon Violence?** Big Dig? LED lights randomly flashing from semi-hidden bags with cartoons on them? Hey! That'll make people pay attention! Even folks in Boston!

• **Just Wondering:** Where were the concerned citizens and the gendarmes in the other nine cities?

• **Interference, Inc.?** OK, that sounds like a great name for a promotional firm, doesn't it? Check them out (their web site just might be back up by now, it was down late Wednesday night... post-stunt): <http://www.interferenceinc.com>.

• **About History:** Sad to say, the company's head had done some great stuff before (check out: <http://www.atnewyork.com/news/article.php/808381>). The guy who did this "stunt" did a great job changing the name of our friend *Scott Kurnit's* company from **Mining** to **About** ... now a *New York Times* unit.

• **"We Can Execute Better":** *Michael Dell* said that. And I thought he was talking about the Iraqi government.

• **OK, Nothing Is Funny Anymore:**

Not in a world of "extraordinary rendition" or Abu Ghraib or IEDs or, pardon me a moment... there's a group of guys in drab suits, white shirts, drab ties, short hair cuts and these little coiled wires that run from the collar to the ear at my hotel door... Just kidding. Hasn't come to that (yet).

• **Wondering:** These rules some folks in the government are making... such as the Executive Order imposing a "political" person in the chain of the command in executive branch agencies before any regulation can be implemented... did anyone in the executive branch stop to consider that their opponents might be in charge some day? And that those orders might stand?

• **Been Looking:** For a reason why Federal Anti-Cable Commission Chairman *Kevin Martin*(et) might treat cable in the manner he so deliciously does... can't find one. Been looking around a bit in the past. In fact, when he has been included in cable-specific functions (a trip to Beijing, an industry lunch), he's been amiable, relaxed and, while not quite fully engaged, not at all stand-offish.

Paul Maxwell

T: 303/271-9960

F: 303/271-9965

maxfax@mediabiz.com

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CableFAX FAXIES

MAGAZINE

Nomination Form

Due February 23rd

The top execs, the hit shows, the best parties and more...

Featured each year at NCTA's The Cable Show, "The FAXIES" is an annual awards issue that combines the unmistakable *CableFAX* humor with memories of the and best.

THE 6TH ANNUAL FAXIES CATEGORIES

- Best MSO Execs
- Best Programming Execs
- Best Marketers
- Best Flacks
- Best Shows
- Rising Stars on/off Camera
- Best Comebacks
- Best Parties
- Best Schmoozers
- Do Gooders
- Best Tech
- Best Tchotchkeys
- Best Web Play
- Nicest Guys/Gals in Cable

We've attempted to make the nominating process simple. Nominate as many people as you wish in as many categories.

Send Nominations to:
 Fax: 301-738-8453 or
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Include the following information in your fax or email.

- Candidate's Name and Title:
- Your Name, Title and Contact:
- Nomination Category:
- Why should this person receive a 2007 FAXIES Award?

2007 FAXIES CONTACTS

Editorial Information:

Michael Grebb
 Executive Editor
 mgrebb@accessintel.com

Advertising Information:

Amy Abbey
 Eastern Regional Director
 aabbey@accessintel.com

Todd Milroy
 Western Regional Director
 tmilroy@accessintel.com

FAXIES Awards Party (in Las Vegas) information:

Dave Decker, Publisher,
 ddecker@accessintel.com