

CableFAX Daily™

Monday — February 11, 2013

What the Industry Reads First

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Blizzard Blitz: Cable Companies Ready, Weather Sticking with 'Nemo'

Days after the FCC's first hearing on Superstorm Sandy, cable and other communications providers get a chance to put their storm prep to the test as a possibly historic blizzard headed toward the Northeast Fri. **Comcast's** preparations began earlier in the week. It's giving customers updates, including outage info, at Comcast.com. Subs also can use Comcast's text alerts service to check for outages. Other arrangements include coordinating with power companies and local and state emergency works, and embedding employees to work in emergency control centers where appropriate. Every provider we spoke to has been securing generators, topping off fuel and rounding up staffing from other areas. **Cablevision**, which suffered a hard hit from Sandy (we'll find out just how hard when it reports 4Q earnings Feb 28), said it's prepared for the storm. "In the event of storm-related impacts, we will work as quickly as possible to assess damage and complete any necessary repairs to our own facilities and in cooperation with local utilities," a spokesperson said. Similarly, **Cox**, which has systems in CT and RI, has teams on standby. **Time Warner Cable** already had started rescheduling installation and service appointments in NYC for Fri afternoon and Sat morning. **Verizon's** disaster recovery fleet of emergency vehicles, which includes a 51-ft mobile command center and two 53-ft mobile emergency calling centers, was on stand-by for deployment if needed. It's a safe bet that lawmakers and the FCC will closely watch the response as the agency is probing what could have been improved during Superstorm Sandy in Oct. The FCC reminded communications providers Fri that they could contact the FCC Operations Center 24/7 if they need assistance to initiate, resume or maintain communications during the weekend. Less serious discussions Fri were over what to call the storm. **Weather Channel**, in keeping with its announcement in Oct to name major winter storms, has dubbed the blizzard Nemo. **National Weather Service** is ignoring the name, calling it simply a "major winter storm." But many have adopted the moniker, with *USA Today* and the *Wall Street Journal* both using it in headlines. Some on social media Fri were relieved it wasn't yet another storm called Snowmageddon, while others grumbled that the blizzard shares its name with a **Disney/Pixar** fish. "Our winter storm name Nemo provides a good Greek and Latin lesson for everyone. Nemo is a Greek boy's name meaning 'from the valley,' and it means 'nobody' in Latin," a Weather Channel spokesperson said. It's also the name of the enigmatic commander in *Jules Verne's* "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea," if you want to get literary. Weather said #nemo has generated thousands of tweets, and it hopes it will make communications and info sharing easier. The net is live streaming coverage at weather.com and wunderground.com (no authentication required). The news nets also were sending anchors out Fri to cover what's to come.

Union News: **Cablevision's** first and only union could be going away. The MSO said it has been notified that employees in Brooklyn have petitioned the **National Labor Relations Board** to schedule an election that would allow employees there to determine whether **CWA** will continue to represent them. Some 270 employees at Cablevision's Brooklyn facility voted to join the union in Jan '12. After 1 year passed, a minority of workers can file a petition to decertify if there is no

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Best Advice/Motto Series



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contract, as is the case here. It has been a messy year, with both sides feuding publicly. Cablevision filed a lawsuit against the union, complaining it was making false statements about its Internet service, and CWA recently filed charges at the NLRB accusing management of "bad faith bargaining." CWA's *Tim Dubnau* released a statement Fri saying Cablevision was trying to intimidate workers for the decertification petition: "This is just one more piece of management's campaign of fear and intimidation. On the same day that Cablevision-Optimum fired 22 workers, they also sent an email and handed out a memo in person discussing decertification, in a clear attempt to intimidate people." Cablevision's statement: "Virtually all Cablevision employees have a direct relationship with the company. Cablevision looks forward to an election at the earliest possible date to allow its Brooklyn employees to determine whether or not the CWA union will continue to represent them." -- **AT&T** Southwest reached a new tentative contract agreement with **CWA** District 6, covering 20K wireline employees in AK, KS, MO, OK and TX. If approved, the new 4-year contract would include an annual pay increase ranging from 2.25% in the 1st year to 3% in the 4th year. An earlier tentative agreement was rejected by District 6.

From the Street: **UBS** kept its "buy" rating on **Charter** following its agreement to buy **Bresnan** from **Cablevision** for \$1.6bln. "Charter management appears to be betting that it can continue to drive penetration gains in the Bresnan region given Cablevision's investments and the lack of telco fiber competition in these markets," the firm said, estimating that Charter's '13 EBITDA multiple (adjusted for tax assets) goes to 6.8x from 6.7x. **Moody's** changed the outlook for CCH II, an indirect intermediate holding company of Charter, to "stable" from "positive," estimating that the debt funded transaction will increase leverage to slightly over 5x on a pro forma basis based on the 12 months EBITDA of the combined companies through Sept 30 '12 (from 4.9 times). **Moody's** believes the acquisition would favorably expand Charter's scale, increasing total revenue to about \$7.9bln from about \$7.4bln. It will consider an upgrade with continued improvements in both financial and operating metrics and a commitment to a better credit profile. **S&P** kept its "buy" on Cablevision shares.

Research: New consumer research from **Leichtman Research Group** found that 75% of US households have at least one HDTV set—up from 23% 5 years ago. Over the past five years, 52% of US households adopted HDTV. In addition, 51% of HDTV households have more than 1 HDTV vs. 22% 5 years ago. Overall, about 38% of all US households now have multiple HDTV sets—up from about 26% of 2 years ago, and 5% all households 5 years ago. About 59% of TV sets in HD households are HDTVs. Learn more about the findings at **CableFAXDaily.com**.

Marketing: To honor the final season of "Spartacus," **Starz** partnered with **VIP Fan Auctions** to auction original props, sets, costumes and collectibles from the entire series. New items will be offered every week at www.spartacusauctions.com.

Ratings: **truTV's** new series "Guinness World Records Gone Wild" debuted Thurs with 1.38mln viewers, growing its 8pm timeslot by 80%+ compared to a year ago. -- **USA's** "Suits" was the #1 DVRRed cable show for the week of Jan 14. See how other shows ranked at **CableFAXDaily.com**.

Programming: **TBS** ordered a pilot for "Do It Yourself," a sitcom from executive producers and creators *Walt Becker* and *Rob Long*. -- *Scott Aukerman's* original series "Comedy Bang! Bang!" was so funny that **IFC** booked a 2nd season. The first 10 eps will debut 3Q, with the remaining 10 slated to air in 4Q. -- **Showtime** ordered new drama project "The Affair."

People: **Starz** upped *Ray Milius* to evp, programming and IP operations.

Oops: *Dan Henson* is **Cox's** FL/GA market leader, with *Lynn Murphey* the market leader for GA.

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The winners and honorable mentions will be saluted during an awards event in May 2013 in NYC.

Late Entry Deadline: Feb. 15, 2013

Visit: www.cablefaxsalesawards.com

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CableFAX Week in Review

Company	Ticker	2/8 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS				
DIRECTV:	DTV	53.06	2.55%	5.78%
DISH:	DISH	37.64	(0.24%)	3.41%
DISNEY:	DIS	54.66	0.13%	9.78%
GE:	GE	22.50	(0.53%)	7.19%
NEWS CORP:	NWS	28.90	1.01%	10.14%
MSOS				
CABLEVISION:	CVC	14.97	4.91%	0.20%
CHARTER:	CHTR	80.89	3.65%	6.10%
COMCAST:	CMCSA	38.75	0.39%	3.72%
COMCAST SPCL:	CMCSK	37.35	0.38%	3.98%
GCI:	GNCMA	8.19	(5.75%)	(14.6%)
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	LBTYA	68.01	(3.5%)	8.02%
LIBERTY INT:	LINTA	21.50	0.75%	9.25%
SHAW COMM:	SJR	23.60	0.25%	2.70%
TIME WARNER CABLE:	TWC	88.85	(1.57%)	(8.58%)
VIRGIN MEDIA:	VMED	45.79	15.54%	24.60%
WASH POST:	WPO	398.68	2.64%	9.16%

Company	Ticker	2/8 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
PROGRAMMING				
AMC NETWORKS:	AMCX	58.11	(0.75%)	17.39%
CBS:	CBS	42.83	0.99%	12.56%
CROWN:	CRWN	1.95	2.63%	5.41%
DISCOVERY:	DISCA	71.47	1.65%	12.59%
GRUPO TELEVISA:	TV	27.89	(4.42%)	4.93%
HSN:	HSNI	59.95	0.59%	8.84%
INTERACTIVE CORP:	IACI	43.72	5.20%	(7.45%)
LIONSGATE:	LGF	19.13	0.21%	16.65%
OUTDOOR:	OUTD	7.51	(0.92%)	(1.18%)
SCRIPPS INT:	SNI	60.14	(3.23%)	3.83%
TIME WARNER:	TWX	52.57	3.32%	9.91%
VALUEVISION:	VTV	2.88	3.60%	60.00%
VIACOM:	VIA	62.17	(0.21%)	14.56%
WWE:	WWE	8.48	(1.05%)	7.48%

Company	Ticker	2/8 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
TECHNOLOGY				
ADDVANTAGE:	AEY	2.05	(0.97%)	3.02%
ALCATEL LUCENT:	ALU	1.66	(3.49%)	19.42%
AMDOCS:	DOX	35.88	0.45%	5.56%
AMPHENOL:	APH	70.44	2.88%	8.87%
AOL:	AOL	33.72	9.62%	13.88%
APPLE:	AAPL	474.98	4.71%	(10.75%)
ARRIS GROUP:	ARRS	16.43	0.06%	9.97%
AVID TECH:	AVID	7.53	(2.33%)	(0.66%)
BLNDER TONGUE:	BDR	1.40	(9.09%)	21.74%
BROADCOM:	BRCM	33.24	(2.95%)	0.09%
CISCO:	CSCO	21.16	1.58%	7.68%
CLEARWIRE:	CLWR	3.20	0.31%	10.73%
CONCURRENT:	CCUR	7.97	6.41%	38.85%
CONVERGYS:	CVG	16.03	(6.2%)	(2.32%)
CSG SYSTEMS:	CSGS	19.29	2.99%	6.11%
ECHOSTAR:	SATS	38.95	4.62%	13.82%
GOOGLE:	GOOG	785.37	1.26%	11.03%
HARMONIC:	HLIT	5.35	0.19%	5.52%
INTEL:	INTC	21.00	(1.69%)	1.84%
JDSU:	JDSU	15.21	2.91%	12.67%
LEVEL 3:	LVT	24.57	(0.97%)	6.32%

Company	Ticker	2/8 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
MICROSOFT:	MSFT	27.55	(1.18%)	3.14%
RENTRAK:	RENT	21.38	4.29%	9.70%
SEACHANGE:	SEAC	11.31	1.16%	16.96%
SONY:	SNE	14.92	(1.39%)	33.21%
SPRINT NEXTEL:	S	5.77	2.30%	1.76%
TIVO:	TIVO	13.21	(1.27%)	7.31%
UNIVERSAL ELEC:	UEIC	18.82	(1.98%)	(2.74%)
VONAGE:	VG	2.44	0.41%	2.95%
YAHOO:	YHOO	20.50	3.74%	3.02%

Company	Ticker	2/8 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
TELCOS				
AT&T:	T	35.27	(0.68%)	4.63%
VERIZON:	VZ	44.35	(0.47%)	2.50%

Company	Ticker	2/8 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
MARKET INDICES				
DOW:	DJI	13992.97	(0.12%)	6.78%
NASDAQ:	IXIC	3193.87	0.46%	5.77%
S&P 500:	GSPC	1517.93	0.31%	6.43%

WINNERS & LOSERS

THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE WINNERS

COMPANY	CLOSE	1-WK CH
1. VIRGIN MEDIA:	45.79	15.54%
2. AOL:	33.72	9.62%
3. CONCURRENT:	7.97	6.41%
4. INTERACTIVE CORP:	43.72	5.20%
5. CABLEVISION:	14.97	4.91%

THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE LOSERS

COMPANY	CLOSE	1-WK CH
1. BLNDER TONGUE:	1.40	(9.09%)
2. CONVERGYS:	16.03	(6.2%)
3. GCI:	8.19	(5.75%)
4. GRUPO TELEVISA:	27.89	(4.42%)
5. LIBERTY GLOBAL:	68.01	(3.5%)

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