

# CableFAX Daily™

Friday — July 6, 2012

What the Industry Reads First

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## Carriage Conundrum: DISH/WV Media Retrans Drama Continues

The July 4th celebration's over, but the fireworks in the cable world continued as **DISH** and **WV Media** took shots at each other after failure to reach an agreement, and frustrated subs flooded both companies with complaints about the loss of their programming, especially after severe storms hit the area Fri. In a statement, DISH said it has continued to negotiate but claimed that WVM has "leveraged a local emergency in an increasingly unreasonable manner." DISH dropped 4 WVM stations July 1, including **WBOY (NBC and ABC)**, **WOWK (CBS)**, **WVNS (Fox and CBS)** and **WTRF (CBS, Fox and ABC)**. A state of emergency declared by Gov *Earl Tomblin* remained in effect Thurs. "Fully aware that DISH customers need access to local news and weather during storm-related issues, West Virginia Media has ratcheted up its rate demands on a daily basis," DISH said. The satellite op offered to continue providing the channels with an extension, but WVM "flatly refuses," said *Andrew LeCuyer*, vp, programming. The company claimed the broadcaster insists on a more than 200% rate hike. DISH set up a website, [www.FairSatellite.com](http://www.FairSatellite.com), to provide updates on talks with WVM. WVM CEO *Bray Clay* is tight-lipped about the spat: "We don't talk about ongoing negotiations," he said. Nonetheless, individual stations spoke up. DISH is "out of touch with reality here in West Virginia," WTRF gm *Roger Lyons* said in a statement. 200% sounds big, but "we are not asking a lot," he said. However, a compromise seemed unlikely. DISH is "determined to hold the line against the kind of greed that would affect DISH customers adversely," the DBS op said. **WBOY** noted its employees, many of whom have been without power and other services, have worked over the week to cover the news about storm damage. The stations reminded subs that they are already paying for the service, so they might consider demanding a refund for the missing channels. A DISH rep responded by noting that it's happy to help subs with any service-related questions and that it maintains low rates by refusing to overpay for programming rights. He also argued that WV Media has a public service obligation to provide programming given the extreme weather-related events in the region. And so it goes... Subs, meanwhile, were disappointed at both companies, judging from **Facebook** and **Twitter** comments. However, the DISH FB page remained dominated by complaints about loss of **AMC Networks**, with many fans worried about missing "The Walking Dead" preview coming this weekend,



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and the season premiere of “Breaking Bad” on July 15. No update on this negotiation yet. And just a reminder that **Hearst Broadcasting** and **Time Warner Cable** face a July 9 deadline to reach an agreement (**Cfax**, 6/20). The 2 agreed on an extension after the contract expired June 30. Impacted markets include Louisville, where recently acquired **Insight** subs lost the **Block**-owned Fox and **MyNetwork TV** stations for a about a week, as well as Cincinnati, Greensboro, NC, and the Orlando NBC affil in **Bright House**’s footprint.

**Spectrum Dealings:** **Public Knowledge** and the **Rural Telecommunications Group** asked the **FCC** to extend the deadline by 2 weeks (July 24) for comment on the impact of Verizon’s spectrum swap with **T-Mobile**. Of course, both PK and RTG oppose the **Verizon**/cable spectrum deal, The FCC recently stopped the shot clock on the deal until July 10 in light of the Verizon/T-Mobile agreement, which is contingent on the approval of the cable spectrum transfer. The extension will allow parties to see Verizon’s responses to petitions to deny in the Verizon/T-Mobile deal and will take into account the difficulty of responding to recent developments over the July 4th holiday, the groups said.

**Carriage:** As expected, *Earvin “Magic” Johnson*-based **Aspire** joined **Skype Angel**’s **FAVE TV**, an Internet video service. The newly launched African-American focused channel is included in FAVE’s standard programming package on Channel 114 starting June 27.

**Research:** Some 87% of households are multichannel video subscribers, according to a **Leichtman Research** phone-based survey of 1,369 households nationwide. The number is similar to the past 2 years and up 80% from ’04. Meanwhile, it appears that households with less annual income are more likely to subscribe: 6% with annual household income over \$75K don’t subscribe—compared to 12% with incomes of \$30K-\$75K, and 27% with incomes under \$30K.

**At the Portals:** As part of the **FCC**’s program access rules review, the Commission asked **Cablevision** to provide data by July 11 on the type and number of RSNs it owns or operates. For each DMA served by the op, the Commission requested data on the number of TV households passed by the covered systems in the DMA and the number of residential subs served.

**Programming:** **FX** secured off-net rights to **Warner Bros Domestic TV** comedy “Mike & Molly.” It will debut in Sept 2014. -- Dwight is visiting Oprah! Actually, it’s *Rainn Wilson*, who plays the quirky character on **NBC**’s “The Office,” who will sit down for an interview with *Oprah Winfrey* on “Super Soul Sunday” July 8 at 11am on **OWN**. He’ll talk about growing up in Chicago as well as his SoulPancake project, a multimedia Website and series of short films that inspire people to talk about life’s pig questions. -- Reality competition series “Big Break” is headed back to **Golf Channel** for the 18th season this fall at the Greenbrier resort in WV. The new season will feature 12 male pro-golfers competing against each other in order to play alongside the world’s top golfers. -- It’s man vs man vs fish in the 2nd season of “Hillbilly Handfishin” on **Animal Planet**. Returning Sun, July 29, at 8pm, the 7-episode fishing competition show lets newbies catch catfish with nothing but their bare hands and feet. -- Season 2 of **Syfy**’s “Alphas” returns Mon, July 23 at 10pm with a deep roster of guest stars, including *Sean Astin* (“The Lord of the Rings”), *C. Thomas Howell* (“Southland”), *Lauren Holly* (“NCIC”) and *Noah Reid* (“Rookie Blue”). The series follows a group of people with superhuman mental and physical abilities.

**iPad Mini:** **Apple** is reportedly making a 7-inch iPad (vs. the current 9.7-inch ones) for a fall launch. *Bloomberg* and the *WSJ*, citing unnamed sources, said the vendor is in the final stages of production. The smaller tablet would be less expensive than the regular ones, the news reports said. Apple declined to comment.

**Online:** **Netflix** CEO *Reed Hastings* took his excitement to **Facebook** as the online video firm’s monthly viewing topped a record 1bln hours in June. “When ‘House of Cards’ and ‘Arrested Development’ debut, we’ll blow these records away,” said Hastings’ Facebook post Tues. The British political thriller is set to debut later this year while the American sitcom is ready for ’13.

**On the Circuit:** “American Idol” winner *Phillip Phillips* is headed to the 83rd MLB All Star Game July 10 starting 6:30pm. Phillips will perform during a tribute highlighting the tornado recovery effort in MI and AL. The National Anthem will be conducted by country music sensation *Luke Bryan* while another country star *Kellie Pickler*

# BUSINESS & FINANCE

will perform "God Bless America" during the 6th inning stretch. Multi-platinum artists *Zac Brown Band* will perform on-field prior to the State Farm Home Run Derby July 9 airing on **ESPN** starting at 8pm, with former *Idol David Cook* handling the National Anthem. The MLB Gala will feature performance by Grammy winner *Chris Botti*.

**People:** Telecom attorney *Laura Phillips*, partner at law firm **Drinker Biddle**, was elected pres of **FCBA**.

**Editor's Note:** Join speakers from companies including **Comcast**, **ESPN** and **Univision** as they offer their insights on the fast-growing Latino market in the next **CableFAX** Webinar on July 17. How do cable operators and programmers tap into this explosive demographic? Join us and find out. More info: [http://www.cablefax.com/cfp/webinars/2012\\_July17/](http://www.cablefax.com/cfp/webinars/2012_July17/) -- Time's running out to make sure your top execs are considered for this year's **CableFAX 100** list. Submit your nominations before the July 6 deadline at <http://www.cable360.net/cablefaxmag/2012cablefax100.html>. -- Still time (barely) to enter the Platinum Awards presented by **CableFAX** sister pub *Communications Technology*. The awards recognize excellence in technology innovation, implementation and PR/marketing in the highly competitive and dynamic broadband communications technology arena. The late entry deadline is July 13.

## CableFAX Daily Stockwatch

Company	07/05 Close	1-Day Ch	Company	07/05 Close	1-Day Ch
<b>BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS</b>					
DIRECTV:	49.24	(1.05)	CLEARWIRE:	1.11	(0.02)
DISH:	28.54	(0.31)	CONCURRENT:	3.87	(0.18)
DISNEY:	48.11	(0.48)	CONVERGYS:	15.00	0.05
GE:	20.33	(0.1)	CSG SYSTEMS:	17.96	0.17
NEWS CORP:	22.58	(0.32)	ECHOSTAR:	27.97	0.55
<b>MSOS</b>					
CABLEVISION:	13.50	(0.25)	GOOGLE:	595.92	8.09
CHARTER:	72.24	0.03	HARMONIC:	4.36	0.05
COMCAST:	31.45	(0.58)	INTEL:	26.55	(0.31)
COMCAST SPCL:	30.93	(0.51)	JDSU:	11.08	(0.16)
GCI:	8.98	0.04	LEVEL 3:	21.11	(0.4)
KNOWLOGY:	19.73	0.02	MICROSOFT:	30.70	(0.06)
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	50.83	0.19	RENTRAK:	21.10	(0.3)
LIBERTY INT:	18.13	0.20	SEACHANGE:	8.00	(0.2)
SHAW COMM:	19.46	0.19	SONY:	13.78	(0.49)
TIME WARNER CABLE:	81.80	(1.99)	SPRINT NEXTEL:	3.31	(0.16)
VIRGIN MEDIA:	24.98	(0.11)	TIVO:	8.38	(0.06)
WASH POST:	375.00	(5.19)	UNIVERSAL ELEC:	13.95	0.99
<b>PROGRAMMING</b>					
AMC NETWORKS:	38.67	(0.32)	VONAGE:	2.07	0.08
CBS:	32.58	(0.24)	YAHOO:	15.85	(0.13)
CROWN:	1.80	(0.01)	<b>TELCOS</b>		
DISCOVERY:	53.76	(0.79)	AT&T:	35.77	(0.23)
GRUPO TELEVISA:	21.58	(0.21)	VERIZON:	44.89	(0.06)
HSN:	41.08	(0.15)	<b>MARKET INDICES</b>		
INTERACTIVE CORP:	47.12	0.50	DOW:	12896.67	(47.15)
LIONSGATE:	14.91	0.01	NASDAQ:	2976.12	0.04
LODGENET:	1.37	(0.01)	S&P 500:	1367.58	(6.44)
NEW FRONTIER:	1.61	(0.04)			
OUTDOOR:	7.37	(0.07)			
SCRIPPS INT:	56.65	(0.51)			
TIME WARNER:	38.29	(0.55)			
VALUEVISION:	2.30	0.17			
VIACOM:	51.74	(0.29)			
WWE:	7.91	(0.14)			
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>					
ADVANTAGE:	2.06	(0.04)			
ALCATEL LUCENT:	1.59	(0.05)			
AMDOCS:	30.18	(0.19)			
AMPHENOL:	55.13	(0.06)			
AOL:	28.66	(0.05)			
APPLE:	609.94	10.53			
ARRIS GROUP:	13.99	0.01			
AVID TECH:	8.25	0.06			
BLNDER TONGUE:	1.16	(0.04)			
BROADCOM:	33.69	(0.16)			
CISCO:	16.94	(0.21)			



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# PROGRAMMER'S PAGE

## Adventures in Ufology

In the 1990s, "The X-Files" popularized UFO mythology and rekindled speculation about the origins of unidentified craft in the skies. Since then, cable TV has become a Mecca for series and specials about UFOs. Even **History Channel** figured out a way to get in on the action with its "Ancient Aliens" franchise, which—in perhaps the highest honor afforded any cable series—was recently parodied on **Comedy Central's** "South Park." Most of these UFO shows follow a pretty standard documentary format. Footage. Interviews. Reinactments. Done. But **NatGeo's** new "Chasing UFOs" (premiered June 29) takes a different tact, mixing the night-vision antics popularized by shows like **SyFy's** "Ghost Hunters" and "Destination Truth" with serious investigative fervor. Each show focuses on a separate investigation, with 3 hosts—adventurer *Erin Ryder*, UFO researcher and documentarian *James Fox* and geologist and radiation scientist *Ben McGee*—traveling to the sighting areas, interviewing witnesses, searching for evidence, and eventually going out with night-vision cameras to, well... basically run around frightened of noises in the bushes and mysterious vehicles that seem to be following them. That sort of thing. It can be a bit silly at times, but it's certainly entertaining. And the truth is that these 3 take their jobs very seriously: Ryder (who already has a built-in fanbase from her stints on Destination Truth) considers herself a "ske-liever" in that she's uncertain about UFOs; Fox, whose documentary "I Know What I Saw" is widely considered one of the most credible UFO docs ever made, is an avid believer; and McGee is a die-hard skeptic who seems to be along for the ride, amused by his partners' enthusiasm. In the end, the show probably won't uncover any major conspiracies. But Nat Geo has shaken up the UFO genre a bit. And it's all good fun. **[Check out our video interview with Fox and Ryder at <http://www.cablefax.com/cfp/videos.html>] – Michael Grebb**

**Reviews:** "Awkward," Thurs, 10:30p, **MTV**. Can season 2 of this send-up of teen life reach the dramatic heights of its excellent debut year? 15-yr-old Jenna (*Ashley Rickards*) spent season 1 (avg 2.1 P12-34) learning about herself. In season 2 she asks, "Whom should I be with?" Two teen boys respond, "With me." The love triangle begins. -- "The Closer," Mon, 9p, **TNT**. The cable icon begins its 7th and final season averaging 8.3mln viewers. Chief Johnson (*Kyra Sedgewick*) is anxious to prove attorney Phillip Stroh (*Billy Burke*) is a rapist and murderer. Gonna bet against her? -- "Who The (Bleep) Did I Marry?" Wed, 9p and "Dates from Hell," premiere, 10p, **Investigation Discovery**. Comprising ID's 'Love Gone Wrong' bloc, these series win because while they re-create stories with actors, the real principals always get camera time. The "Bleep" opener tells the bizarre violent tale of actor *Shelley Malil* from "The 40-Year-Old Virgin." "Dates" premieres with *Keri Potts'* harrowing experience in Rome, providing a platform for this courageous woman to continue her advocacy on behalf of victims of violence. -- "Turtle Boy," Sun, 9p, **Nat Geo**. This short doc about a cute, 6-year-old Colombian with a mole that covers three-fourths of his body is outstanding on many levels. While it's not easy watching, it's a fascinating story sensitively told.

Basic Cable Rankings			
(6/25/12-7/1/12)			
Mon-Sun Prime			
1	USA	2.1	2117
2	DSNY	2	1953
3	HIST	1.7	1713
3	TNT	1.7	1688
5	FOXN	1.4	1409
6	TBSC	1.3	1321
7	A&E	1.2	1174
7	FX	1.2	1144
7	BET	1.2	1063
10	ESPN	1	998
10	ADSM	1	957
12	FOOD	0.9	891
12	HGTV	0.9	890
12	SYFY	0.9	839
15	TRU	0.8	763
15	NKJR	0.8	617
15	DSE	0.8	65
18	LIFE	0.7	716
18	DISC	0.7	710
18	BRAV	0.7	704
18	TLC	0.7	701
18	FAM	0.7	700
18	MSNB	0.7	630
24	MTV	0.6	609
24	TVLD	0.6	608
24	CMDY	0.6	606
24	AMC	0.6	591
24	SPK	0.6	560
24	EN	0.6	544
24	LMN	0.6	496
24	ID	0.6	486
32	VH1	0.5	522
32	APL	0.5	473
34	NAN	0.4	435
34	HALL	0.4	384
34	ESP2	0.4	376
34	CNN	0.4	373
34	NGC	0.4	364
34	DXD	0.4	284
34	GSN	0.4	282
41	TRAV	0.3	297
41	HLN	0.3	287
41	OXYG	0.3	255
41	OWN	0.3	241
41	WGNA	0.3	237
41	NBCS	0.3	218

\*Nielsen data supplied by ABC/Disney

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