

CableFAX Daily™

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What the Industry Reads First

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Happy New Year: DISH-Disney Busy Talking, No Big Fights on Horizon (Yet)

As Dec 31—the industry’s unofficial programming contract sell-by date—nears, it has been relatively quiet. Perhaps merger talk is taking precedent over any big dust-ups, but given the history, chances are someone, somewhere will lose a broadcast station or a cable net or two. **DISH** and **Disney** have been mired in negotiations for months. Their contract expired at the end of Sept, with the 2 announcing a short-term extension to continue talks. A federal court agreed last week to postpone a Dec 18 settlement conference on DISH’s Autohop feature because of the ongoing talks. The ongoing retrans/carriage negotiations do involve discussions over the “potential resolution” of this legal dispute, DISH and Disney told the court. “At this stage in the discussions, it would be somewhat of a distraction for a senior DISH executive with settlement authority to travel to New York from Denver for an in-court settlement conference,” the companies said. If no resolution is reached by year-end, they will propose dates in Feb for a settlement conference. Judge *Kevin Fox* ordered the 2 to advise the court in a joint filing on or before Jan 6 of 3 dates in Feb when all parties will be available to attend a conference. So far, it’s been a quiet close to 2013, with no crawls or ad campaigns over any expiring deals. The list of year-end contract expirations include **Time Warner Cable** and **Viacom**. Again, TWC has other things on its plate, but it’s worth paying attention given Viacom’s 10-day blackout on **DirecTV** last year and a close call in ’08 with Viacom running a crawl warning TWC subs that they could lose the nets. **Turner** is rumored to have some deals still to wrap up, including **Cablevision**. And of course, there are always retrans disputes that pop up—although they don’t have to wait until Dec 31 to appear. Ask **Buckeye Cable**, which lost Toledo **NBC** affil **WNWO** at 12:01am Mon. The original contract expired Aug 31, and the station, which was recently purchased by **Sinclair** from **Barrington**, extended the deal through Dec 15. Buckeye said it’s continuing to negotiate and is offering free digital antennas to customers who want them.

At the Portals: The **FCC** Media Bureau is seeking more info on the closed captioning of video clips delivered over the Internet, including the extent to which the industry has voluntarily captioned IP-delivered video clips. When the FCC delivered its IP closed captioning order as part of the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act, it determined that the rules should initially apply to full-length programming and not clips. It did say that it be-

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lieves Congress intended to leave open the extent to which video clips should be covered under this section at some point in the future, and encouraged programming owners and distributors to provide captioning for clips, especially news clips. A coalition of consumer groups have filed a petition for reconsideration of this issue.

Launch Pad: The redesigned **Time Warner Cable News** nets officially launched Mon with 16 local news nets across the country. The nets will offer the same on-air talent, local content and original programming. Meanwhile, the upgraded TWC News mobile app will feature live video streaming for all 16 local news nets, allowing TWC News subs to access content on all Android and iOS mobile platforms.

M&A: The **Dept of Justice** will require divestiture from **Gannett** in order to move forward with its proposed \$2.2bln acquisition of **Belo** and **Sander's** related acquisition of 6 Belo stations that Gannett can't hold under **FCC** rules, the agency said Mon. Without the divestiture, Gannett would have gained a dominant position in the St Louis area, resulting in higher ad prices, DOJ said. Gannett had planned to divest **KMOV** and 5 other Belo stations to Sander but it also planned to offer services to the Sander stations, including KMOV, where Gannett owns **KSDK-TV**, the NBC affil in St Louis. Even though the 2 stations would maintain separate sales forces, the various agreements between Gannett and Sander, KMOV-TV's new owner, would "align the incentives of the two stations," DOJ said. It's asking Gannett, Belo and Sander to divest all assets primarily used in the operation of KMOV-TV to an independent purchaser.

Winter Olympics: As the Sochi Olympics nears (starts Feb 6), **NBC Olympics** and **Yahoo** extended their existing digital partnership to include content and promotion around the sporting event. Specifically, the partnership allows Yahoo's audience in the US to access all of NBC Olympics' digital video highlights and live streamed events. Yahoo's content and features such as Yahoo Search and Tumblr will also be integrated with **NBC Sports'** Olympics coverage. -- More than 1K hours of live streaming content of the Sochi Olympics will be provided through NBCOlympics.com at no charge for pay-TV subs upon authentication. For the 1st time in the history of the Winter Games, all competition across 15 sports will be live streamed online and through the NBC Sports Live Extra app.

Cable Academy: **Comcast** inked a multi-year, multi-million dollar partnership with non-profit **Khan Academy**, combining its broadband adoption program Internet Essentials with the group's free educational content to tackle the digital and educational divide. The commitment, which Comcast characterized as one of the largest it has made to non-profits, includes "hundreds of thousands" of public service announcements, "significant" digital promotion in English and Spanish, and multiple joint promotions around the country over the next few years.

Sports Deals: **Fox Sports** renewed its exclusive media rights in the US and Caribbean to the **UEFA Champions League** and **UEFA Europa League** for 3 additional seasons from '15/'16 through 17/'18. The deal allows coverage of both tournaments on channels and platforms including **Fox Sports, Fox Sports 1, Fox Sports 2, Fox Deportes, Fox Sports Regional Networks** and **Fox Soccer Plus**, as well as online and on mobile.

Advertising: **Comcast Spotlight** is working with **Rhiza** to provide clients with audience data and graphic-rich analytic presentations. "Rhiza for Media helps us take a wide range of data and present it in an easy-to-understand way, demonstrating the geographic and demographic segmentation capabilities that only local spot cable advertising offers," said Spotlight's sr dir of research **Matt DeAngelis**. Data can be analyzed and summarized at multiple geographic levels, from a market-wide perspective down to a zone level analysis.

Ratings: The Season 3 finale of **Showtime's** "Homeland" Sun night is the series' highest-rated ep and night ever with 2.4mln viewers at 9pm and 2.9mln viewers for the night. The ep topped the Season 3 premiere by 27% at 9pm and by 12% for the night. Showtime's "Masters of Sex" finished its freshman year run Sun night with 1.2mln viewers at 10pm and 1.5mln for the night.

Programming: **History** launches new docuseries "The Curse of Oak Island," chronicling 2 brothers' quest for buried treasure, on Jan 5 at 10pm. -- **Cartoon** brings back "The Powerpuff Girls" for a CG special on Jan 20, with **Ringo Starr** making a guest appearance. -- **truTV** booked more eps of "Hardcore Pawn" before the season 8 premiere on Tues.

Marketing: **Golf Channel** showed off its new logo, which it will roll out in May. The new graphic uses the word Golf next to the **NBC** peacock. It replaces the transitional logo that has been used on the net and NBC since it became

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part of NBC Sports Group in '11.

On the Circuit: The Association of Cable Communicators is taking its annual educational conference, FORUM to Atlanta (June 3-5). The event, featuring ACC's annual Beacon Awards Gala, will be co-chaired by *Misty Skedgell*, svp of corporate communications, **Turner Broadcasting**, and *Mallard Holliday*, exec dir of public relations, **Cox**.

People: *Marco Bresaz* joined **AMC** from sibling **Sundance Channel** as vp, unscripted programming.

-- **HLN** tapped *Keith Brown* as svp, programming and *Kari Kim* as vp, program development. Brown was most recently managing partner of **Perez-Brown Media Group** (producer of "The Root 100" on *Aspire*). Prior to joining HLN, Kim was vp, prod and dev at HLN chief *Albie Hecht's Worldwide Biggies*.

-- *Jason Armstrong* joins **Comcast Corp** from **Goldman Sachs** as svp, IR in Jan. He succeeds *Marlene Dooner*, who was recently named evp, Hispanic ent and Content for **NBCU**. -- **Disney XD** named *Marc Buhaj* svp, programming and gm, reporting to *Sean Cocchia*, svp, business operations and gm, **Disney Channels Worldwide**, and *Paul DeBenedittis*, svp, programming strategy, Disney Channels Worldwide. -- **Nick** upped *Sharon Cohen* to evp, partnership marketing, **Nickelodeon Group**.

CableFAX Daily Stockwatch

Company	12/16 Close	1-Day Ch	Company	12/16 Close	1-Day Ch
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS					
21ST CENTURY FOX:	32.84	(0.09)	GOOGLE:	1072.98	12.19
DIRECTV:	65.75	(0.88)	HARMONIC:	6.77	0.10
DISH:	53.64	0.35	INTEL:	24.45	0.16
DISNEY:	70.51	0.89	JDSU:	12.19	0.37
GE:	26.98	0.14	LEVEL 3:	30.64	0.23
MSOS					
CABLEVISION:	16.38	0.08	MICROSOFT:	36.88	0.20
CHARTER:	131.36	(0.18)	MOTOROLA MOBILITY:	14.45	0.19
COMCAST:	49.24	0.23	NIELSEN:	45.62	UNCH
COMCAST SPCL:	47.55	0.03	RENTRAK:	35.76	1.07
GCI:	10.00	0.11	SEACHANGE:	11.44	0.01
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	84.95	0.48	SONY:	17.50	(0.01)
LIBERTY INT:	27.73	0.07	SPRINT NEXTEL:	8.31	(0.12)
SHAW COMM:	23.45	(0.06)	TIVO:	12.67	0.28
TIME WARNER CABLE:	132.09	0.68	UNIVERSAL ELEC:	36.76	0.08
PROGRAMMING					
AMC NETWORKS:	63.69	(0.83)	VONAGE:	3.16	(0.06)
CBS:	59.13	0.71	YAHOO:	39.73	UNCH
CROWN:	3.36	0.05	TELCOS		
DISCOVERY:	84.04	1.59	AT&T:	34.15	0.30
GRUPO TELEVISA:	29.10	(0.55)	VERIZON:	48.26	0.42
HSN:	60.28	(0.36)	MARKET INDICES		
INTERACTIVE CORP:	60.33	0.48	DOW:	15884.57	129.21
LIONSGATE:	28.51	0.25	NASDAQ:	4029.52	28.54
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN:	54.80	(0.11)	S&P 500:	1786.54	11.22
SCRIPPS INT:	81.47	0.74			
STARZ:	27.61	0.20			
TIME WARNER:	66.32	0.77			
VALUEVISION:	6.70	0.34			
VIACOM:	82.15	0.80			
WWE:	14.33	0.02			
TECHNOLOGY					
ADVANTAGE:	2.53	0.01			
ALCATEL LUCENT:	4.51	(0.01)			
AMDOCS:	40.62	0.20			
AMPHENOL:	86.05	0.89			
AOL:	44.84	0.47			
APPLE:	557.50	3.07			
ARRIS GROUP:	22.37	0.65			
AVID TECH:	8.20	0.06			
BLNDER TONGUE:	0.96	0.02			
BROADCOM:	28.38	0.37			
CISCO:	20.68	0.44			
CONCURRENT:	7.83	0.06			
CONVERGYS:	20.49	0.55			
CSG SYSTEMS:	29.17	0.49			
ECHOSTAR:	46.97	(0.19)			



Bright.*

*Coming soon from CableFAX.

CableFAX TECH

4K Sprints Toward Olympics...

We recently wrote about 4K, or Ultra HD, coming sooner than expected. Actually, the service is coming A LOT sooner as **Elemental Technologies**, which provides HEVC solution for delivery of 4K, works with several programmers and distributors involved with the Sochi Winter Olympics, *Keith Wymbs*, vp of marketing told us. The company isn't disclosing its Olympics partners yet, but Elemental's existing clients include **Comcast**, whose **NBCU** unit is the Winter Olympics' official broadcast partner. The HEVC vendor recently demonstrated encoding a 4K sports event at a bit rate of 60 frames per second in London, following its showcase of the 4K broadcast of the Osaka Marathon earlier this year with a bit rate of 30 frames. "Sportscasters simply don't consider 4K at anything less than 50 frames per second good enough and look to higher frame rates to help mitigate blurring and judder issues," Wymbs said. Elemental has the capacity to go higher than 60 frames per second for fiber-based processing, though not necessarily in real-time today, he noted. If there were content and display devices available, the company can encode VOD at a 120 frames per second rate, he said. "Advancing beyond 60 fps for real-time compression in small footprints will require another evolution in processing chipsets," he said. Beyond the Olympics, 4K programming tiers are expected in the 2nd half of 2014, with initial services coming from satellite TV providers and some OTT providers, Wymbs said. In addition to **Netflix**, which is planning 4K programming next year, **Amazon Studio**, Amazon's production unit, said on Mon that it plans to produce original series scheduled for '14 in 4K. The company launched a 4K Ultra HDTV Guide, featuring links to its selected 4K TV models and other 4K devices. And live sports will likely drive adoption next year. At IBC 2013

in Sept, **Sony** and **FIFA** confirmed that the World Cup final will be filmed and broadcast in 4K following a successful trial at the FIFA Confederations Cup last summer. Japan accelerated its 4K broadcast timeline to coincide with the tournament, and is expected to provide the world's 1st 4K TV broadcast in July. The US may see the 1st 4K channel launch as soon as the 1st half, Wymbs said.

Virtual MVPD: **Verizon** is reportedly nearing a deal to acquire **Intel Media**, Intel's experimental streaming service. And execs at major programmers like **Viacom** and **Disney** recently predicted at investor conferences that a virtual MVPD could come as early as next year. In addition, **DirectTV** chmn/CEO *Mike White* hinted the satellite TV provider is working on a broadband-based TV service. The company will offer more info in the next 12 months, "but we think it's an opportunity," he said during the company's investor day last week. So far, nothing is set in stone yet but 2014 is looking to be a big year for broadband-based video.

Comcast Doings: **Comcast** convened an open house last week at its newly expanded Silicon Valley Innovation Center with its partners **Twitter**, **Alti Systems** and the **California Telehealth Network**. Since the 2011 launch, the center has grown from 60 employees to around 250. The center is focused on various platforms, including X1 platform, SEEIT and the Xfinity Home Security app.

1-Gig: **AT&T** turned on its all-fiber network in Austin, TX, with initial speeds of up to 300 Mbps (up and down). The speeds will hit 1-Gig by the middle of '14. **Google Fiber** launches in Austin by mid-'14. Meanwhile, **Time Warner Cable** is expanding its WiFi hotspots in the area.

Editor's Note: **CableFAX Tech** will return with the New Year. Happy Holidays!



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