

# CableFAX Daily™

Friday — December 23, 2011

What the Industry Reads First

Volume 22 / No. 247

## Retrans Road Map: Lay of the Land Headed into 2012

With Dec 31 deadlines approaching for many retrans consent agreements, we want to help you keep track of it all. New skirmishes are popping up and others are being resolved almost daily. But here's a rundown of what we know at the moment. **AT&T U-Verse:** Allbritton is threatening to go dark in U-Verse markets Jan 1. Those stations include Little Rock's **KATV**, which has posted a notice on its Website directing subs to **DirectTV**, **DISH** and local cable providers. You'll notice it doesn't mention Cox... Like many other MVPDs, AT&T also has pacts expiring with **Hearst**. **Cox:** Cox is being heavily targeted by Allbritton, which ran a full-page ad in *Politico* Thurs with a picture of a snowy TV. "What Cox subscribers in Fairfax County may see watching the ball drop on Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve... 3,2,1..." In addition to DC's **ABC** affil, Allbritton owns the DC area's **Newschannel 8** as well as *Politico*. "Cox is negotiating in our customers' best interest to keep these stations in our line-up. We will continue to negotiate in good faith with Allbritton for a fair exchange of value, and hope to resolve the issue as soon as possible with an outcome that is in the best interest of our customers," Cox said. **DISH:** DISH is proof retrans blackouts can last awhile. DISH subs in Chattanooga lost their **NBC** affil (**WRCB**) and Reno lost **CBS** affil **KTVN** on Nov 2. However, at our deadline Thurs, word was that a deal had finally been reached and the stations were set to return to the air. **FIOS:** Verizon FIOS' expiring contract with **Sinclair** went public as crawls ran on stations in Baltimore and Pittsburgh, but the telco said Thurs that a deal had been reached. No further details... **Insight:** At last check, Insight still needed to do a deal with Sinclair, which has stations in Columbus, OH, and Lexington, KY. *Michael Willner's* latest blog post wishes readers happy holidays, saying he's taking some time off. But the last line has us watching this space: "See you in 2012! However, if anything big happens, we'll be right here to tell you." **RCN:** Just like Cox, RCN could lose Allbritton stations in the DC market. **Mediacom:** **KPTH** out of Sioux City, IA, began warning Mediacom customers that a deal hasn't been reached yet for the **Fox** affil. The **New World TV Group** station claims the MSO is refusing to negotiate an agreement which recognizes its fair value. Mediacom also has to renew its **Hearst** pact. **Time Warner Cable:** San Diego **CBS** affil **KFMB** launched KeepCBS8.com, warning that Time Warner could lose the station Jan 1. TWC is part of the Allbritton gang, facing retrans consent expirations in Birmingham and Charleston. **Cordillera**

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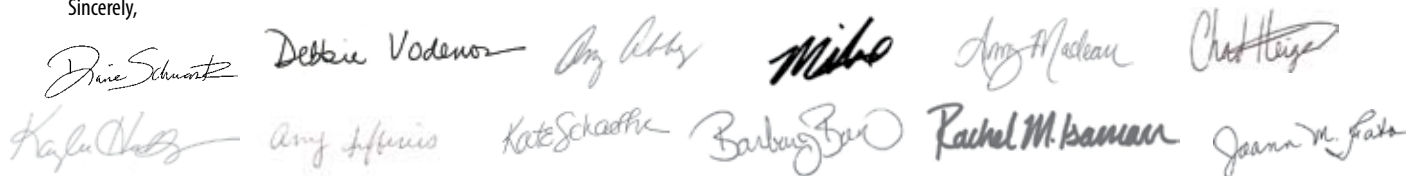
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**And a special thank you to our loyal readers!**

**Here's to a Successful 2012**

Sincerely,

A row of handwritten signatures in black ink, including names like Debbie Vodenos, Amy Abby, Mike, Amy Maclean, Chad Heise, and others.

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pulled 4 stations, including **NBC-affil KRIS** in Corpus Christi, TX, from TWC on Dec 13. The stations were still dark at our press time. TWC also is negotiating with **WAGM** in Presque Isle, ME, for continued retransmission of CBS and Fox programming. TWC disputed WAGM's notice to subs, which said the broadcaster reached out to the MSO in Jan with its willingness to commence retrans negotiations. "WAGM reached out to us in October asking to commence negotiations, not January," a TWC rep said. "The more important point, however, is not when negotiations started, but the fact that both sides are actively negotiating an agreement at this time. We are working hard to reach a deal that is in the best interest of our customers, without any interruption of service." **Suddenlink**: Hearst took the unusual strategy of listing all upcoming retrans consent expirations. According to the most recent update on Sacramento affil **KCRA's** Website, Suddenlink is among a list of providers who still have to agree to a new deal.

**At the Portals**: The **FCC** wrapped up '11 with media ownership, voting to propose eliminating the broadcast/newspaper cross-ownership rules. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking approved by Commissioners on circulation Thurs also seeks comment on whether shared services agreements and other pacts violate local market station limits.

**ACA** has been particularly vocal on the issue, saying the pacts give broadcasters an unfair advantage on retrans. -- The **FCC** Office of Engineering and Tech approved the 1st TV white spaces database and device, giving the nod to **Spectrum Bridge's** TV white spaces database (it can begin providing service to devices Jan 26). It also approved a device by **Koos Technical** that is the 1st product allowed to operate on an unlicensed basis on unused frequencies in the TV bands.

**In the Courts**: The **DE Supreme Court** affirmed Tues the **DE Court of Chancery's** ruling that **Crown Media** and **Hallmark Cards'** recapitalization deal consummated in '10 included a fair process and pricing. The decision ends a lawsuit filed by minority Crown shareholder **S. Muoio & Co.** Crown shares gained 1.69% Thurs.

**In the States**: **Leap Wireless** began its transition from 3G to **4G LTE** with a commercial market launch in Tucson, AZ, under the **Cricket** banner. More than 90% of the market will be covered by 4G and expansion of the network will hit Nogales, AZ, in '12.

**'11 Top Tens**: The **House Judiciary** won't tackle the **Stop Online Piracy Act** until next year, but at least **Torrent-Freak.com** claims the percentage of illegal TV show downloaders has steadily declined in recent years thanks in part to services such as **Hulu** and **Netflix**. Still, the site's data, which includes reports from all public **BitTorrent** trackers, show that eps of **Showtime's** "Dexter" (3.62mln) and **HBO's** "Game of Thrones" (3.40mln) garner more downloads at BitTorrent.com than TV viewers in the US. Following the pair on the list of top pirated shows in '11: **AMC's** "The Walking Dead" (2.06mln), **HBO's** "True Blood" (1.85mln) and **AMC's** "Breaking Bad" (1.73mln). -- Among the top 10 recommended TV shows on **Amazon.com** this year: "The Walking Dead," "Breaking Bad" and **FX's** "Sons of Anarchy." -- Of **Nielsen's** top 10 list of the most time-shifted TV shows, 9 are on cable, led by **FX's** "American Horror Story." The others, in order: **USA's** "Covert Affairs" and "Suits," **TNT's** "Franklin and Bash," **USA's** "Psych," **FX's** "Sons of Anarchy," **USA's** "White Collar," **FX's** "Justified" and **A&E's** "The Glades." **USA's** "Royal Pains," **Collar** and **Covert**, plus **FX's** "Rescue Me" cracked the list for the most engaging prime programs.

**Sports Previews**: **iN Demand's** launching the **NBA** season with a free preview of out-of-market games package **NBA League Pass** on cable from Dec 26-Jan 8. For the 1st time, mobile device authentication is included in the \$169 package price this season, along with access to games via **NBA.com**, game replays, mosaic and stat channels and HD contest. -- **DISH**, **Charter** and **FIOS TV** will offer a free preview of **NHL Net** from Dec 29-Jan 2, a window that includes live coverage surrounding the '12 Bridgestone NHL Winter Classic. Also, the net will launch a fresh logo and new show "NHL Tonight" on Dec 26.

**Ratings**: **truTV's** "Hardcore Pawn" drew 2.7mln viewers Tues night to become the net's most-watched series telecast in history. Also, "Storage Hunters," which aired following Pawn, set a net viewership record for a freshman show with 2.1mln. -- **Nat Geo Wild** achieved its highest-rated week ever last week, owing to its "2nd Annual Big Cat Week" stunt that reached 5.9mln total viewers (+31% YOY) and a 0.2 rating (+64%) among 25-54s. "Lion Army: Battle to Survive" was the stunt's top telecast, earning a 0.3 rating in the demo. -- **MSG** notched its highest-rated preseason NY Knicks game since **Nielsen** implemented the Local People Meter in '04, scoring a 2.28 HH rating for the team's

# BUSINESS & FINANCE

match up with the NJ Nets Thurs night (+322% YOY). -- The 14 original holiday movies featured as part of **Hallmark Channel's** "Countdown to Christmas" stunt delivered a record 22.1mln unduplicated viewers and pushed the net to #1 in cable week-end prime among women 25-54 from Nov 5-Dec 18. -

**Programming: Univision** and **HGTV** are both set for live coverage of the 123rd Tournament of Roses Parade (Jan 2). HGTV's coverage will be commercial-free and include a '12 HGTV Dream Home float in the parade featuring more than 10K flowers, a snowman, snowmobile and 4 net personalities. Univision's will feature the parade as well as the Rose House lawn.

**Digital: Avail-TVN** chose software from **VidScale** to advance its **AnyView** multiplatform, multiscreen video service for customers using IP-connected devices including PCs and Macs and mobile devices such as **Apple iOS** and **Roku**.

**On the Circuit: Save the Date!** **SkiTAM** is slated for Mar 29-Apr 1 in Vail. All proceeds directly benefit the US National Paralympic Ski Team. The must-attend event has grown from 110 attendees in '96 to more than 1K last year, raising \$6mln+ in its 16 year history.

**Editor's Note:** Your next issue of **CableFAX** will be dated Dec. 28. Happy holidays!

## CableFAX Daily Stockwatch

Company	12/22 Close	1-Day Ch	Company	12/22 Close	1-Day Ch
<b>BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS</b>					
DIRECTV:	42.77	(0.22)	CLEARWIRE:	2.02	(0.01)
DISH:	28.33	0.57	CONCURRENT:	3.36	0.09
DISNEY:	36.95	0.68	CONVERGYS:	12.84	0.10
GE:	18.05	0.53	CSG SYSTEMS:	14.81	0.16
NEWS CORP:	18.04	(0.04)	ECHOSTAR:	21.18	0.83
			GOOGLE:	629.70	3.88
<b>MSOS</b>			HARMONIC:	5.18	0.05
CABLEVISION:	14.33	0.51	INTEL:	24.02	0.34
CHARTER:	55.74	0.14	JDSU:	10.41	0.61
COMCAST:	23.63	0.04	LEVEL 3:	17.39	(0.08)
COMCAST SPCL:	23.45	0.01	MICROSOFT:	25.81	0.05
GCI:	9.77	(0.67)	MOTOROLA MOBILITY:	38.62	(0.03)
KNOLOGY:	14.06	(0.01)	RENTRAK:	14.37	0.22
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	40.66	0.36	SEACHANGE:	7.03	0.04
LIBERTY INT:	16.37	0.08	SONY:	17.76	0.29
SHAW COMM:	19.56	0.29	SPRINT NEXTEL:	2.35	0.02
TIME WARNER CABLE:	63.00	(0.06)	THOMAS & BETTS:	54.90	0.51
VIRGIN MEDIA:	21.24	(0.03)	TIVO:	9.16	0.15
WASH POST:	374.29	8.88	UNIVERSAL ELEC:	17.03	0.10
			VONAGE:	2.47	0.13
<b>PROGRAMMING</b>			YAHOO:	16.00	0.01
AMC NETWORKS:	36.74	(0.07)	<b>TELCOS</b>		
CBS:	26.45	0.32	AT&T:	29.66	0.36
CROWN:	1.20	0.02	VERIZON:	39.29	0.06
DISCOVERY:	40.36	0.03	<b>MARKET INDICES</b>		
GRUPO TELEVISIA:	20.62	0.17	DOW:	12169.65	61.91
HSN:	37.24	(0.15)	NASDAQ:	2599.45	21.48
INTERACTIVE CORP:	42.25	0.26	S&P 500:	1254.00	10.28
LIONSGATE:	8.22	0.14			
LODGENET:	2.53	0.13			
NEW FRONTIER:	1.05	0.02			
OUTDOOR:	7.34	0.09			
SCRIPPS INT:	43.06	0.14			
TIME WARNER:	35.29	0.29			
VALUEVISION:	1.94	(0.01)			
VIACOM:	49.62	0.87			
WWE:	9.45	(0.14)			
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>					
ADDVANTAGE:	2.10	0.01			
ALCATEL LUCENT:	1.63	0.08			
AMDOCS:	28.37	0.43			
AMPHENOL:	45.01	0.96			
AOL:	15.24	0.14			
APPLE:	398.55	2.10			
ARRIS GROUP:	10.55	0.06			
AVID TECH:	8.80	0.05			
BLNDER TONGUE:	1.28	0.03			
BROADCOM:	29.77	0.88			
CISCO:	18.13	0.21			

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# PROGRAMMER'S PAGE with Chad Heiges and Seth Arenstein

## A Surprise That's Not That Surprising

What **FX** has in store for "American Horror Story" is definitely ballsy; that the net and pres *John Landgraf* are the puppeteers helps reduce the shock value. Having a basket of inventive and compelling shows including "Justified," "Sons of Anarchy" and "Archer" offers a healthy down payment for programming latitude, yet some may still feel slighted and/or skeptical of Horror's announced anthological DNA. As in, the show's wildly popular freshman series—it delivered the net's best premiere in history and is averaging approx 8.6mln viewers/week across platforms—will assume a new cast, underpinning theme and focus each new season starting next year (season 1 wrapped Wed night). Stars including *Jessica Lange*, *Dylan McDermott* and *Connie Britton* may return next season, albeit playing different characters, and the haunted CA house will be replaced with something entirely different. Only the horror will endure. "The mysteries, love stories... will all be there," said co-creator/exec prod *Ryan Murphy* during a conference call, along with a "brand new home or building to haunt." References to true American crimes will continue, he said, and the horror could include "anything but vampires." Landgraf said he's "really excited" about the show's anthological future, in part because the name and thematic storytelling will remain intact. Landgraf was aware of the plan when he greenlit the show but didn't want it betrayed, which helps explain why so little info was offered up about Horror before its premiere. "I just had complete optimism from Day 1," said Landgraf. "I think it exceeded even our fondest expectations from a ratings standpoint." Now, it seems, the show must scare up enthusiastic viewership anew. That's ballsy. The 1st season, though, hints at a delicious and gory future for Horror no matter what, although I'll miss Lange's other-worldly turn immensely. Another perhaps? *CH*

**Highlights:** "Leverage," 9p, Sun, **TNT**. There are several schools of thought on whether/when to schedule a holiday ep in a successful series. This "Leverage" ep lacks a direct link to Xmas, albeit it revolves around love. Speaking of, are grifter Sophie (*Gina Bellman*) and mastermind Nate (*Timothy Hutton*) on again? *SA*

**Worth a Look:** "Epic Christmas," Fri, 9p, **Weather**. A charming show; good Samaritan gets a holiday home makeover—during the summer!

**Notable:** With Xmas, we should talk about specials on **ABC Family**, **Hallmark**, **GMC** (Yule Log 6a-11p, Xmas Day) and **INSP**, themed films on **TCM** and **TBS** ("A Christmas Story" marathon from 8p, Xmas Eve), but by coincidence the strike-shortened **NBA** season starts Dec 25. Cable kicks off NBA on Xmas Day with Celtics at Knicks (noon ET, **TNT**). Later it's *Kevin Durant's* Thunder against *Dwight Howard's* Magic (8p ET, **ESPN**). Finally *Chris Paul* and the new-look Clippers take on Golden State (10:30p **ESPN**). -- Clearly **USA** believes nobody will be working next week, so it's running hit films from early AM, including "Quantum of Solace" (Mon), "Pirates of the Caribbean" (Tues) and "Sex and the City" (Wed). At 6a Thurs **USA** begins a "Burn Notice" marathon.

### Basic Cable Rankings (12/12/11-12/18/11)

Mon-Sun Prime			
Rank	Network	Rtg	(000s)
1	USA	2.2	2216
2	FOXN	1.9	1825
3	ESPN	1.8	1756
5	DSNY	1.7	1711
6	TBSC	1.4	1435
6	A&E	1.4	1398
6	FAM	1.4	1325
10	TNT	1.3	1317
10	HIST	1.3	1243
6	HALL	1.4	1231
12	DISC	1.1	1106
12	LIFE	1.1	1098
12	FX	1.1	1094
3	NFLN	1.8	1056
15	AMC	1	998
15	ADSM	1	989
17	FOOD	0.9	925
17	NAN	0.9	916
17	BRAV	0.9	888
17	HGTV	0.9	856
23	SYFY	0.8	819
17	TRU	0.9	814
24	MTV	0.7	693
24	TLC	0.7	690
24	CMDY	0.7	671
24	TVLD	0.7	665
29	SPK	0.6	641
29	MSNB	0.6	561
24	NKJR	0.7	527
29	LMN	0.6	517
29	BET	0.6	502
34	EN	0.5	502
29	ID	0.6	467
34	APL	0.5	440
36	CNN	0.4	398
36	VH1	0.4	380
36	ESP2	0.4	374
36	NGC	0.4	342
43	HLN	0.3	334
36	OXYG	0.4	308
43	TRAV	0.3	305
43	CMT	0.3	266
43	DXD	0.3	239
43	WE	0.3	234
43	GSN	0.3	226

\*Nielsen data supplied by ABC/Disney

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