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Christian Science Monitor
Netflix now makes up a third of all Internet traffic in North America (+video)

Los Angeles Times
CBS and Dish agree to extend deadline; blackout averted

(Norfolk) Virginian-Pilot
Cox denied permission to carry Old Dominion's last home game

Philadelphia Inquirer
Editorial: Capital cleanup

Philadelphia Inquirer
Wolf extends an early olive

Satellite-TV provider Dish Network Corp. is fighting three media giants at the same time. Comcast Corp.'s NBCUniversal said Thursday that Dish customers are at risk of losing access to its regional sports networks in markets including Chicago, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C., because of a programming dispute with the satellite provider. Those channels air games of popular sports teams such as the Chicago Bulls and San Francisco Giants.

Dish is also in tense contract negotiations with CBS Corp. —the two sides agreed to a short-term extension late Thursday—and has dropped some of Time Warner Inc. 's Turner Broadcasting channels including CNN and Cartoon Network. Turner has started warning customers that they may also lose TNT and TBS, whose contracts expire Dec. 5.

Like all pay-TV providers, Dish is fighting against the rising fees TV programmers are demanding for carriage of their channels, which it says translates into higher bills for customers. Such programming disputes are becoming more common and more complex as distributors like Dish look to acquire digital rights along with TV carriage.

Dish is planning to launch a new low-cost service to deliver TV programming online. It will likely want that service to include at least some of the channels owned by the companies it is fighting with now. A Dish spokesman said in a statement that the NBCUniversal sports channels are demanding a nearly 20% price increase for 90% of Dish customers in their markets, "when only a small fraction of those consumers actually watch the channels." The spokesman said NBCUniversal's "heavy-handed tactic is troubling given Comcast's proposed merger with Time Warner Cable that would allow it to exercise even more power to leverage programming content in anti-competitive ways."

Comcast has said that fears of its resulting size after the deal are overblown. "We are growing increasingly concerned that Dish is not willing to work toward mutually acceptable terms," NBCUniversal said in a statement. The company fully expects Dish will drop the sports channels when its current contract expires Dec. 1, a person close to NBCUniversal said. Dish Chairman Charlie Ergen said earlier this month that he believes cable and satellite-TV providers will eventually carry varied groups of channels, rather than identical lineups at ever-increasing retail rates for customers. "At some point, somebody's not going to carry regional sports, because everybody in the marketplace doesn't watch regional sports," he said on an earnings conference call.

Regional sports networks are among the most expensive programming services for pay-TV providers to carry, with an average monthly cost of $2.69 per-subscriber, according to the industry consulting firm SNL Kagan. While the ratings for RSNs are not huge, they have loyal audiences. Dish refused to sign deals to carry two expensive RSNs in Los Angeles owned by Time Warner Cable and earlier this year also dropped Comcast's CSN New England. – ***Wall Street Journal***

Liberty Media Corp. Chairman John Malone said Wednesday the cable operator he backs, Charter Communications Inc., would try to acquire Time Warner Cable Inc. outright if Comcast Corp. 's pending

branch

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review
Editorial: The Kathleen Kane chronicles – The Pa. attorney general's credibility is gone

deal with TWC falls through. Earlier this year, Charter agreed to a complex deal with Comcast that would allow it to purchase subscribers from Comcast after the TWC deal closes. That transaction would effectively make Charter the second largest cable operator, servicing about eight million TV and Internet customers.

Mr. Malone, speaking at Liberty Media's investor day, said he would pursue an outright purchase of Time Warner Cable if the Comcast deal doesn't get approval from regulators. That deal is getting significant scrutiny in Washington. But Mr. Malone said, "We're happy with the deal that's been negotiated," adding that "in many ways from our point of view it's a better deal." Liberty Media bought a big stake in Charter last year and recently spun off that interest into Liberty Broadband, a new publicly traded company. Liberty and Charter had pursued an acquisition of Time Warner Cable for months last year but lost out to Comcast, which struck a deal with TWC instead. – ***Wall Street Journal***

Internet-broadcast streaming company Aereo Inc. filed for bankruptcy protection five months after the Supreme Court delivered the technology a company a fatal blow in its fight with traditional television broadcasters. The Boston company filed for Chapter 11 protection late Thursday in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in New York, listing assets of $20.5 million and debt of $4.2 million.

Aereo Chief Executive Chet Kanojia said in a statement on the company's website that the Supreme Court setback was too much to overcome. "The U.S. Supreme Court decision effectively changed the laws that had governed Aereo's technology, creating regulatory and legal uncertainty," Mr. Kanojia said. "And while our team has focused its energies on exploring every path forward available to us, without that clarity, the challenges have proven too difficult to overcome." Aereo, whose equity backers include Barry Diller 's IAC and funds managed by Highland Capital, raised approximately $95.6 million in venture cash since its founding in 2010.

In an affidavit filed with the court, Aereo finance chief Ramon A. Rivera said the company filed for bankruptcy to help its goal of "consummating a sale of substantially all of its assets, recapitalizing or entering into some other reorganization transaction for the benefit of its creditors and shareholders." Those assets consist primarily of its cash on hand, its equipment and technology, its intellectual-property portfolio and its business potential, Mr. Rivera said.

Aereo operated with thousands of dime-size antennas stored in warehouses that captured local broadcast signals. Subscribers could stream local TV stations' signals through the company's cloud-based antenna and DVR services for as little as $8 a month. Aereo suspended its broadcast TV streaming service in June after the Supreme Court ruled in favor of TV broadcasters that had sued Aereo claiming copyright violations. The ruling was a victory for media companies like CBS Corp., Walt Disney Co.'s ABC, Comcast Corp.'s NBC and 21st Century Fox's Fox, argued that Aereo was unlawfully exploiting their copyrighted works without permission or payment. – ***Wall Street Journal***

Comcast's newest feature is super Uber-y.

Comcast has begun a new trial through its Xfinity MyAccount application that alerts customers when a technician is 30 minutes away from arriving at their homes. Similar to popular car service app Uber, Comcast customers can track technicians' progress on a map using their smartphones. It's not yet available to Philadelphia customers. For now, it's being tested just outside Boston. But there's hope. If all goes well, the company will roll out the new service to local customers in 2015, a Comcast spokeswoman said.

Last week, Brian Roberts, the company's CEO, demoed the new feature at an event in San Francisco. Senior Vice President of Customer Experience for Comcast Cable Charlie Herrin detailed the new product in a blog post Thursday. "We're hoping this will prevent our customers from just needing to sit at home and wait," Herrin said. – ***Philadelphia Business Journal***

CNBC, part of Comcast Corp.-owned NBCUniversal, has invested in data-analytics firm Kensho, of Cambridge, Mass., to bring real-time ESPN-style statistics and insights to the business-news cable channel. Terms of the deal were not disclosed. Daniel Nadler, Kensho's chief executive officer, said the firm can bring 3,000 computer servers to answer a question about the financial markets or industries. Kevin Krim, senior vice president and general manager of CNBC Digital, said CNBC plans to launch a subscription service to investors based on the Kensho analytics in 2015. – ***Philadelphia Inquirer***

Pennsylvania Gov.-elect Tom Wolf says he hopes to have his Cabinet picked before his Jan. 20 inauguration. In a brief telephone interview Thursday, the Democrat said his transition team is still in its formative stages, but that two months should be enough time to choose his top advisers. Wolf says he

	hasn't ruled out keeping some of Republican Gov. Tom Corbett's Cabinet members and that the party affiliation of a candidate doesn't matter as much as his or her competence and integrity. Wolf says the transition team's budget task force is analyzing the fiscal challenges he'll face once he's sworn in as governor. The state's Independent Fiscal Office projects a nearly $2 billion structural deficit. Wolf says he wants to have some good answers by inauguration day. – ***Associated Press***

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