

Cablefax Daily™

WHAT THE INDUSTRY READS FIRST

Looking Back: Spectrum News Recaps a Year of Growth

In a time when video is on the decline among operators, Charter continues to invest in its Spectrum News networks. The organization champions its local-first coverage in a year that saw plenty of national headlines with a presidential election, but it was also a year Spectrum News further grew its reach across multiple platforms. Its national streaming news platform Spectrum News+ was made available to non-Spectrum customers for the first time after being added to the FAST service Xumo Play in July. Spectrum News also worked with C-SPAN to simulcast Spectrum News+'s live coverage, including on election night, in addition to having Spectrum News political reporters interviewed.

As 2024 comes to a close, Spectrum News GVP Sam Singal eyes the momentum to continue into the new year. CFX spoke with Singal, who's been with Spectrum News since February 2020 and previously spent 21 years with NBC News, about the organization's strategy and what its future path could look like. Edited excerpts of the conversation follow.

What would you say 2024 was “the year of” for Spectrum News?

I would say it was our commitment to expand, to bring our local coverage to more geographic areas and to continue to innovate our storytelling, our distribution, the platforms, the locations—those are the big things that I look back [on].

The local focus is a big talking point for Spectrum News. What are the benefits of having that hyper-locality?

Because we are so locally focused and because we are available 24/7, our reporters really get a chance to understand and to meet the members of the community, community leaders, and they're able to dig into issues and stories that our competition may not be able to do. They're going to community board meetings, to board of education meetings. They're able to go to community groups, get to know the people and really dig and do great enterprise reporting. We live and we work in these communities that we cover, and we have time. We have time to explore weather phenomena in Florida around hurricanes, wildfires in California, education and transportation issues in New York.

Spectrum News+ was made available to non-Spectrum customers for the first time after being put on Xumo Play. What was the thought process there?

Spectrum News is available to all of our customers, whether you subscribe to Spectrum cable or internet, and this is a way to show customers—with Spectrum and without—that there is another great alternative for unbiased news coverage, local community reporting. We're thrilled to be able to share it with a new audience.

Speaking of Xumo Play and FAST channels, do you think their momentum is going to keep up into the new year and how do they impact the way news outlets deliver stories?

For us, we want to be where customers are. We want to be where viewers get their news. We now live in an environment where you need to be in a variety of places. I don't have any news to share about what we're going to be doing on FAST platforms in the future, but I think we've found good success



The Cablefax team is thrilled to announce this year's honorees for The Most Powerful Women Awards, recognizing the distinguished women leaders who are innovating and inspiring in the media and broadband space.

JUST RELEASED

www.CablefaxWomen.com

on Xumo Play. I know the way we think here, so I think all options will be on the table as we look ahead to 2025.

How do you make sure you're venturing more into digital while not forgetting the customers who are loyal to linear TV?

As I mentioned earlier, you've got to be where the viewers are, and that is of deep importance to us. We're very lucky in the way our organization is structured. We're able to livestream our core product. Our core product is our local news stations, and because of our approach, we're able to live stream those local stations. There are organizations that don't have that ability, so we're very lucky you can pick up your phone and watch every one of our local markets.

What opportunities does a collaboration like the one with C-SPAN bring?

We've had limited partnerships so far, but hopefully it'll continue to grow. C-SPAN has simulcast our election night coverage, our debate and post-debate coverage, some of our local station coverage when the mayor of New York City *Eric Adams* was indicted ... They share our commitment to solid, unbiased Washington political reporting, so I hope we will continue with that relationship. I think it's something we're very proud of in its infancy and look forward to seeing where we can continue to partner in the year to come, especially considering it'll be such a big year in Washington as a new administration begins in January.

SHUTDOWN COUNTDOWN

With the federal government facing a potential shutdown at midnight, agencies were making preparations for what may be ahead. Generally, during a shutdown all **FCC** activities will cease other than those immediately necessary for the protection of life or property. Operations suspended include consumer complaint and inquiry phone lines; licensing services; and equipment authorizations. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit said calendared oral arguments for the month of January will proceed as scheduled if there is a shutdown. "The Administrative Office of the United States Courts has announced that the Judiciary is prepared to use carryover funds and fees to keep the courts running for several weeks. Once that funding is exhausted, however, the federal courts face serious disruptions," said a notice. The bipartisan funding deal that fell apart in the House this week included reauthorization of **NTIA** and authorization for a study of the national security threat posed by routers made by companies controlled by foreign adversary countries. The latest reports Friday afternoon have House Republicans discussing a plan to take separate votes on funding the government and raising the debt limit.

NETFLIX LANDS WOMEN'S FIFA WORLD CUP

FIFA delivered a holiday stunner, announcing that the exclusive U.S. rights to the 2027 and 2031 FIFA Women's World Cup have been awarded to **Netflix**. It's the first full competition to be acquired by Netflix, and it'll include both English- and Spanish-language broadcasts (Puerto Rico is part of the agreement). Coverage will include both live games and studio programming. "This is a landmark moment for sports media rights," FIFA President *Gianni Infantino* said. "As a marquee brand and FIFA's new long-term partner, Netflix has shown a very strong level of commitment to growing women's football. This agreement sends a strong message about the real value of the FIFA Women's World Cup and the global women's game. FIFA and Netflix partnering together makes this a truly historic day for broadcasting and for women's football."

GUTHRIE REVEALS HOUSE COMMERCE ASSIGNMENTS

House Commerce Chairman-Elect *Brett Guthrie* (R-KY) revealed the subcommittee and vice chair assignments for the 119th Congress. Rep. *John Joyce* (R-PA) will serve as the Vice Chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee. The Communications and Technology subcommittee will see some fresh faces in leadership—Rep. *Richard Hudson* (R-NC) will serve as Chair while *Rick Allen* (D-GA) will serve as Vice Chair. Rep. *Bob Latta* (R-OH), who currently sits as the Chair of the Communications Subcommittee, will now serve as Chair of the Energy Subcommittee with Rep. *Randy Weber* (D-TX) to serve as Vice Chair.

FIBER FRENZY

WOW!'s fiber services are now available in Hernando Beach, Florida and Brighton, Michigan. The expansion into both areas is part of **WOW!**'s larger greenfield initiative, and the company plans to add 44,000 homes to its network in Hernando County as well as 80,000 homes in Central Michigan. – **Bluepeak** launched presales for its network in Denison, Texas, as construction gets underway. It's the first time the company is venturing into the Lone Star state, and it expects to connect its first customers in January.

PROGRAMMING

We're 30 days away from the inauguration of President-elect *Donald Trump*, and **C-SPAN** is running a marathon of speeches, interviews, congressional hearings and more featuring Trump's

key cabinet nominees on **C-SPAN2**. It'll air all day throughout the week starting Monday at 8am and concluding Saturday at 8am. More profiles will continue into next week though—keep an eye out for **FCC** Chair nominee *Brendan Carr*'s turn on Dec. 30. The marathon will also include Secretary of State nominee *Marco Rubio* on Monday, Defense Secretary nominee *Pete Hegseth* on Tuesday, Health & Human Services Secretary nominee *Robert F. Kennedy Jr.* on Wednesday and Energy Secretary nominee *Chris Wright* on Thursday. – **Paramount+**'s drama series "Mayor of Kingstown" was renewed for a fourth season. Season 3 reached 8.8 million global households during its run.

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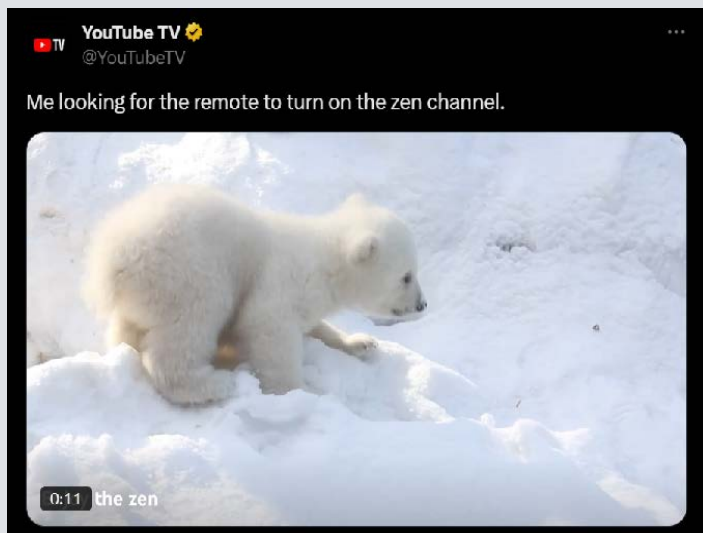
HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Cablefax Daily will go on hiatus for the holidays so that our editors can catch up on TV, though we'll be sure to update Cablefax.com with any breaking news before the Daily returns on Jan. 2. What will we be watching while chilling on the couch? "I binged

the entire first season of 'Squid Game' thinking, 'I'm not sure I should be watching this.' With Season 2 premiering Dec. 26, I am telling myself I won't watch it, but know deep down I will. I plan on cleansing my eyeballs with breaks for *Nate Bargatze*'s Christmas special," says Editorial Director *Amy Maclean*. "With Season 47 of 'Survivor' now finished, I'll have time to finally binge 'Breaking Bad'—assuming I actually kick my habit of re-watching shows like 'House of Cards' or 'Suits.' One thing is for certain: I'll be locked into 'A Christmas Story' on multiple occasions this break," says Associate Editor *Noah Ziegler*. Managing Editor *Sara Winegardner* is preparing for a binge watch of her own after she completes her annual viewing of the 1974 classic "The Year Without a Santa Claus." Heat Miser and Snow Miser claim prominent spots on her Christmas tree. "But once I've finished that, I think it's finally time for me to see what 'Succession' is all about. Will the drama of the Roy family be relaxing? Hard to say. But based on everything colleagues and friends have told me over the years, I know I'm in for quite the ride," she says.

CABLEFAX DASHBOARD

Social Media Hits



Up Ahead

- JAN. 7-10:** [CES 2025](#); Las Vegas
- FEB. 3-7:** [NATPE Global and Realscreen Summit](#); Miami
- FEB. 23-25:** [NCTC Winter Educational Conference](#); Atlanta
- FEB. 23-26:** [NTCA's RTIME](#); San Antonio
- MARCH 4-6:** [ACA Connects Summit](#); Washington, D.C.