

# Cable Chat



## What's On TV?

### Sci Fi...Channel 37

*Sci Fi is where "what if" is what's on, fueling the imagination with original series and events, blockbuster movies, classic science fiction and fantasy programming.*

### MTV HITS...Channel 231

*MTV HITS is all "Hits" driven, featuring the hottest artists in popular music today.*

### Starz Comedy...Channel 373

*Starz Comedy provides movies for all types of humor.*

### PBS Kids Sprout...Channel 53

*Sprout combines a variety of gold-standard, curriculum-based children's programs with short-form original programs uniquely designed to follow a preschooler's day from breakfast to bedtime.*

### Contemporary Christian... Channel 915

*Pop and rock favorites with an inspirational or religious message. Christian inspired, mostly mid-tempo songs, in a contemporary format, from the 80s through the present.*

## Contact Us

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P O Box 520  
Belhaven, NC 27810

### Hours

Monday-Friday  
8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

### Phone

252.964.8000  
252.927.8000

### Fax

252.964.2211

### Email

Questions@goTriCounty.com

### On The Web

www.goTriCounty.com  
www.goTriCounty.biz

### Time-Temperature-Weather

252.927.2000

### Call Before You Dig

811

## System Upgrades/Maintenance Continues

The conversion of the TriCounty Telecom cable TV system to an all-digital network may be completed, but upgrades, maintenance and repairs are an on-going process.

Digital signals, although they provide clearer pictures, better color clarity and stereo sound, are much more temperamental than the old analog signals. Digital signals bring out all the nicks, cuts, and other hidden damages to coaxial cable and reveal weaknesses in amplifiers and other electronics of which we were unaware. For example, underground coax may have tree roots that have grown into the cable or a shovel may have nicked the cable, but the damage has gone undetected. As these problem areas are located, we will be repairing or replacing the damaged trunk or feeder cables.

As a part of routine maintenance, the cable network requires balancing three or four times a year. Temperature fluctuations can cause signal strength to vary from one amplifier to another. With over 240 miles of buried and aerial coaxial cable and over 300 amplifiers in the field, balancing the system takes several days. Each amplifier must be adjusted so the signal strength is equalized across the system. During the month of April, you have probably seen TriCounty Telecom vehicles stopped along the roadside as the system was being balanced.

Some of you may have noticed several channels were off the air on Friday evening, April 17. Although we were experiencing beautiful spring weather here, a snowstorm in Denver, Colorado, was wrecking havoc on cable TV systems across the country. Many small cable systems in the United States access programming signals from Headend In the Sky (HITS). The main hub that collects the signals from the various programming networks and redistributes them across the country is located in Denver. The snow was falling so fast and heavy that the reception and transmission of the signals was interrupted for approximately two hours.

If you are experiencing problems with your cable TV signal, please call our business office at 964-8000 or 927-8000 to let us know so we can assess your situation individually. Before calling, here are a couple of things you can check. Be sure the cables attached to your digital receiver and TV set (and VCR or DVD player if you have one) are secure. Also, be sure the coupling on the end of each piece of cable is tight as it can work loose after repositioning from one device to another. Learning how to operate a new remote can be tricky. Always remember to press the appropriate TV or Cable button on the remote to select the device you want to use before choosing an operation; and be sure your TV is on channel 3.



**The TriCounty Telecom business office will be closed in observance of Memorial Day on May 25.**

## TV Trivia

1. What was the name of "Hotlips" Houlihan's husband on M\*A\*S\*H?
2. What cartoon character made his first appearance in 1919 in the five minute short "Feline Follies"?
3. What channel gives you step-by-step instructions on home improvement tasks?
4. What river runs through Baghdad?
5. What baseball legend married Marilyn Monroe?

See answers below

## Feature Presentation

There are several ways to navigate through the listings on **i-Guide**, your on-screen guide. Make a selection from one of the **i-Guide** menus or press **GUIDE** on your remote to go to program listings for the current hour.

Use the up or down arrow buttons to navigate program titles and the right or left arrow buttons to see program listings for later that day and for future days.

For faster searching, use the **PAGE** up or down buttons while in the listings or press the **DAY** right or left buttons to advance ahead a day at a time.

Press **INFO** on your remote to see detailed program information.

Highlight a program and title and press **OK**. If the program is on now, you will tune to it. If the program is on later, you will see an information screen that provides program details and other features.

## What's the Answer?

1. Donald Penobscot
2. Felix the Cat
3. DIY, channel 218
4. Tigris
5. Joe DiMaggio

## Pay-Per-Views Coming In May



- |                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| > WWE : Judgment Day            | > Not Easily Broken |
| > The Tale of Despereaux        | > TNA: Sacrifice    |
| > UFC 98: Evans vs. Macheda     | > Seven Pounds      |
| > The Day The Earth Stood Still | > Doubt             |

## Spring Into style.

This spring, **style.** (channel 217), the network that's all about transformation is changing lives across America with some serious spring cleaning. Niecy and crew are combing the country to find the messiest home on *Clean House: Search for the Messiest Home in the Country* (premieres May 20). On a new season of *Dress My Nest* (premieres May 20), Thom finds inspiration from personal style, translating it into creative home décor. *Whose Wedding Is It Anyway?* ushers in more prenuptial drama, while Jay Manuel returns to make over everyday ladies to mirror their favorite celebs on *Style Her Famous*.



## SOAPnet Premieres Original Docusoap

*Southern Belles: Louisville* follows the lives of five single, modern Southern women in their 20s and 30s in the heart of Louisville, Kentucky, offering an intimate look at the professional and romantic lives of this circle of friends. The series takes place in the South, but not the South that stereotypes are made of. The backdrop is the progressive, art-centric and warm community of Louisville. The series will showcase the intense friendships and family values that are part of the Southern way of life. A total of 10 one-hour docudrama episodes will air on Thursdays beginning May 21 on SOAPnet (channel 254).



## Broadcast Digital Transition Set For June 12

The nationwide switch to digital television broadcasting will be completed on June 12, 2009, but some local television stations may switch sooner. Local broadcast networks serving our viewing area have indicated they will not switch from analog to digital until June 12.

After the switch, analog-only television sets that receive TV programming through an antenna or rabbit ears will need a converter box to continue to receive over-the-air TV.

Since TriCounty Telecom has converted to all digital and you have connected our digital receiver to your TV(s), no change is required. It will not be necessary for you to purchase a new TV. Analog-only TVs should continue to work as before to receive low-power, Class A or translator TV stations and with gaming consoles, VCRs, DVD players and similar products.

The federal government is offering discount coupons for viewers who need to purchase converter boxes for analog TV sets connected to antennas or rabbit ears. **Note: These coupons are for analog TVs connected to antennas/rabbit ears, not TriCounty Telecom Cable TV service.** Information about the DTV transition is available from your local television stations, [www.DTV.gov](http://www.DTV.gov), 1-888-CALL-FCC (TTY 1-888-TELL-FCC), or by contacting TriCounty Telecom at 252-964-8000 or [www.gotricounty.biz/cabletv-hdtv.htm](http://www.gotricounty.biz/cabletv-hdtv.htm). For discount coupons, visit [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov) or call 1-888-DTV-2009 (TTY 1-877-530-2634).

*TriCounty Telecom is required by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to provide this notice to our customers monthly through June 2009*