



General Manager's Report

idahoptv.org

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Much of it is 30 years old and breaking down

QUOTE

"A thank you for presenting deep, meaningful, and thorough discussions on various topics. I have not paid enough attention to your program, though several years of living in Boise. After hearing Marcia Franklin present a discussion about her travels to Iran, I also watched the (Dialogue) "Good Winter Reading" program. These writers were allowed to actually answer insightful questions in detail. I seldom am allowed to know the "details" with most television."

Email message from viewer Marian Thomas

TWO IDAHO PUBLIC TELEVISION SPECIALS FOCUS ON KEY WATER ISSUES FACING THE IDAHO LEGISLATURE

Idaho Public Television presents a two-part examination of key water issues facing the current session of the Idaho Legislature. The specials cover issues currently under negotiation.

A one-hour DIALOGUE report with host Marcia Franklin looks at the Nez Perce Water Agreement involving treaty water rights and flow requirements. DIALOGUE SPECIAL-TAPPED OUT: IDAHO'S WATER CRISIS "Nez Perce Water Agreement" aired Thursday, February 3 at 8:00/7:00 p.m. MT/PT. The program repeats Sunday, February 6 at 5:00/4:00 p.m. MT/PT.

The deadline is March 31 for the proposed agreement to be approved by the Legislature and the Nez Perce. The agreement has already been ratified by the U.S. Congress. Supporters of the deal believe it will guarantee that southern Idaho water consumers gain jurisdiction over their water. Opponents argue that the agreement could compromise private property rights and restrict some uses of public land.

Guests Anthony Johnson, chairman of the Nez Perce Tribe; Rep. Dell Raybould (R-Rexburg), who supports the agreement; and Sen. Skip Brandt (R-Kooskia), who opposes the agreement share their knowledge with Franklin and answer live calls. Franklin and guests took calls from viewers on a toll-free line at 1-800-973-9800 during the live portion of the Thursday show.

Friday's IDAHO REPORTS is expanded to include TAPPED OUT: IDAHO'S WATER CRISIS. Joan Cartan-Hansen takes a special look at the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, Friday, February 4 at 8:30 p.m. MT/PT. The program repeats Sunday, February 6 at 5:00/4:00 p.m. MT/PT. This presentation includes special reports from KBCI Local 2 News as IDAHO REPORTS gives Idahoans an in-depth look at the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer controversy.

The program looks at the history and elements of the issue, which threatens to pit longtime groundwater rights against historic spring water rights.

The DIALOGUE and IDAHO REPORTS specials include video pieces, which explain the issues and interview the parties involved.

IdahoPTV expands on information surrounding these two major water issues on the Web (idahoptv.org/water). The site includes audio clips about the two issues from Governor Kempthorne's 2005 State of the State address, headlines about water issues in the news and links to other productions, including IdahoPTV's FocusWest program, DRAINING THE WEST.



For more Buzz, checkout idahoptv.org

-I've included a press account of my January 31, 2005 JFAC hearing at the end of this report.

-This just in from the Public Broadcasting Services' (PBS) 2004 National Program Service Evaluation to member stations. "Some of this past year's most popular one-off's (i.e. individual one-time television programs) were: The Journey of Sacagawea..."

-On January 23-26, in my role as Co-Chair of the Organization of State Broadcast Executives, I represented state-wide public television broadcasters in a series of on-going meetings with the leadership of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. I was joined by elected representative from four other licensee groups in Charleston, South Carolina to review the progress of four national initiatives of CPB affecting local public television stations including: 1) adopting research results on viewing habits and interests into the programming policy objective of public television, 2) efforts to enhance local stations' major giving practices, 3) network and station operational efficiency project and 4) successful local production benchmarking project.

Just as a reminder, IdahoPTV was among the first stations selected to participate in the Major Giving Initiative. IdahoPTV's Mission, Vision and Values statement materials are being distributed to other participating stations as a model. In addition, we were highlighted by CPB's independent consultant (Booz, Allen) who conducted key research finding on successful operating efficiencies represent in our FocusWest regional public affairs collaboration.

-IdahoPTV has join forces with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to explore early childhood development in a special one-hour television program and website. The effort is slated for broadcast in September. IdahoPTV's producer Joan Cartan Hansen is the lead on the project.

-Coming in March...West of the Basque...A new IdahoPTV Production

Some say the true West was built on the backs of the Basque sheepmen. They came to a hard country that was still making up its mind about what it was going to be, still defining itself. They chipped out some kind of life from the dirt and mountains and desert.

Idaho Public Television brings you West of the Basque, a one-hour documentary on the Basque in Idaho. We trace the lines of history through the generations, from the early days as herders to the prominent spot the descendents of Basque immigrants hold in Idaho today.

Travel to the Basque region of Spain where the Basque country remains connected to the West, and especially to Idaho. Though separated by thousands of miles, they are united in history. In the early days Idaho meant untamed, open country for the Basque who wanted and needed something better. They left a homeland where war was always either a reality or a lingering memory. They will always be linked because those Basque were here when this territory was becoming the State of Idaho.

Watch West of the Basque and see how the arrival of these immigrants helped bring a vibrant layer to the rich tapestry of Idaho.

-On Wednesday and Thursday, January 5 and 6, IdahoPTV webcasted live the hearing on the economic outlook for the state. On Friday, January 7, the Change in Employee Compensation (CEC) hearings were webcasted.

-Just a reminder, that for two weeks beginning February 14, IdahoPTV and Legislative Services will conduct a test of web-cameras in the House and Senate chambers. These cameras, one in each room, will enhance the live audio web streaming service that we have offered for five years at idahoptv.org. To check out the two week pilot, simply click on the audio stream link on our website for either the House or Senate, and a live image will appear with the audio service.

-We'd like to thank Intermountain Gas Company for their contribution toward Science Trek, which will take place this spring.

IDAHOPTV SIGNALS UPDATE

Local channels in the Twin Falls market will be available on Dish Network in March.

IDAHOPTV REACHES OUT

-On Friday, January 21, the Treasure Valley Corporate Contributions Managers held their January meeting at IdahoPTV. IdahoPTV was given the opportunity to give the group an overview of our activities and a tour.

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS AND EVENTS DURING THE IDAHO LEGISLATURE

-Digital Government Day, February 9, 9am-4pm, Idaho State Capitol

-"IdahoPTV's Best" Local Programs and Services Overview:

-Gold Room, Idaho State Capitol, February 10, Noon-1:30pm

IDAHOPTV STAFF UPDATES AND TRANSITIONS

I am pleased to announce that Vicki Peterson has been hired as an Office Specialist 2 in our Development/ Membership department.

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IDAHO PUBLIC TELEVISION'S FRIENDS BOARDS

-Friends of Idaho Public Television: KAID/KIPT, Wednesday, February 16, Noon.

-Friends of Idaho Public Television: KISU, Wednesday, February 23, 5:30 p.m.

-Friends of Idaho Public Television: KUID/KCDT, Tuesday, March 29, Noon.

IDAHOPTV RECOGNIZED

On January 28, 2005, IdahoPTV received several honors from the New York Film Festival.

Lewis and Clark Crossing the Centuries, History and Society, Finalist
Predator Legends, Nature and Wildlife, Finalist
Idaho: An Angler's Paradise, Sports and Recreation, Finalist
Dialogue for Kids: Dinosaur, Educational/Instructional, Bronze

Also in January, the Television Programmers Association's Cine Awards awarded two honors to IdahoPTV:

Designing Idaho, Golden Eagle
Outdoor Idaho: Camp Rainbow Gold, Golden Eagle

IDAHO ARTS AWARDS SPECIAL AIRED ON IDAHOPTV

— Aired Wednesday, January 5 at 7:00/6:00 p.m. MT/PT

The recipients of the 2004 Governor's Awards in the Arts were featured in a one-hour special, A VISION OF IDAHO: A VOICE FOR THE ARTS.

Documentary profiles spotlighted the award winners in the program produced by TVTV in Boise with some scenes of the October awards ceremony at the Warhawk Air Museum in Nampa. The program captured Idaho artists and supporters receiving recognition for outstanding efforts.

Recipients included the Company of Fools from Hailey, Paul Revere of Boise, The Twin Falls Municipal Band, Robert Wrigley of Moscow, Bruce Willis of Hailey and Reunion of Idaho Falls/Driggs.

Other recipients were Nat and Sally Adams, Daniel Ansotegui, Beaux Arts Societe of the Boise Art Museum, Cathy Mansell, Jane Falk Oppenheimer, Thelma Stephens, and Elizabeth Wolf, all of Boise. Also, Frank Werner, St. Maries; LaVar Steel, Twin Falls; and Dale Harwood, Shelley.

READING RAINBOW YOUNG WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS CONTEST

READING RAINBOW and Idaho Public Television are calling on kids to enter the 11th Annual Young Writers and Illustrators Contest. Children in kindergarten through third grade across the country are encouraged to submit stories to the contest. Entry deadline is March 25.

Children interested in entering the contest should submit a story to his/her local Idaho Public Television station: KAID/KIPT in Boise, KISU in Pocatello or KUID/KCDT in Moscow. Entries are judged in Idaho and based on author's originality, creative expression, storytelling and integration of copy and illustrations.

The first place winners from each station will be sent to READING RAINBOW to compete with other station winners at the national level. Students compete for sets of READING RAINBOW DVDs and matching feature books. Flyers promoting the contest have been distributed to schools and libraries.

To enter:

1. Get an entry form and rules at a public library, or at idahoptv.org/kids
2. Submit a story with at least five illustrations. Stories should be between 50 and 200 words (kindergarten and first grade) and 100 and 350 words (second and third grade). Text can be dictated to an adult by a child who cannot write, and can be typed or handwritten.
3. Have a sponsoring teacher or parent sign the entry form granting permission to use the entry for promotional purposes. The signature is required to enter the contest.

See the IdahoPTV Web site (idahoptv.org/kids) for complete rules, entry form and to see the 2004 winners' entries.

READING RAINBOW, hosted by LeVar Burton, airs on Idaho Public Television weekdays at 2:30/1:30 p.m. MT/PT.

WEEK-LONG SPECIAL SERIES TEACHES STUDENTS ABOUT WETLANDS

— JASON EXPEDITION: DISAPPEARING WETLANDS aired Monday--Friday, January 31--February 4 at 12:30 p.m./11:30 a.m. MT/PT

This live, week-long broadcast event featured JASON EXPEDITION host researchers and student and teacher Argonauts on location at the research site in Louisiana, as they explored wetlands in a field setting.

The hour-long programs are broken up into segments that cover a range of wetland topics: wetland restoration, satellite monitoring, measuring water and soil quality, fighting invasive marsh species, studying otoliths and bivalves and searching for frogs, shrimp and gators.

The special five-part series is designed to provide rich learning experiences using a hands-on inquiry program that mirrors the work of real researchers. The companion Web site for JASON EXPEDITION (www.jason.org) features educational information and activities teachers may use to augment their science and math curricula.

THREE IDAHO AUTHORS RECOMMEND GOOD READING ON DIALOGUE

Three Idaho Authors Recommend Good Reading on DIALOGUE

— "Good Winter Reading" aired Thursday, January 27 at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT

This episode of DIALOGUE featured host Marcia Franklin with three Idaho authors as they talked about their works and recommended books for viewers. Franklin interviewed authors John Rember, Elise Blackwell and Barbara Herrick.

During the live call-in show on Thursday, Franklin and her guests took calls from viewers on a toll-free line. A list of the authors' recommendations can be found on the Web at idahoptv.org/dialogue.

Rember teaches English at Albertson College in Caldwell, and is the author of three books: *Coyote in the Mountains*, *Cheerleaders from Gomorra* and *Traplins*, his latest work which is a memoir of his life in the Sawtooth Valley.

Blackwell is on the writing faculty at Boise State University. *Hunger*, a fictionalized account of the lives of workers at a Russian botanical institute during the siege of Leningrad, is her first novel.

Herrick is a Boise writer whose book, *The Blackberry Tea Club*, is an outgrowth of conversations between women about middle age. It includes essays, poems and stories on the trials and wonders of growing older. She is also the author of numerous poems and stories.

DIALOGUE TALKED WITH BSU PROFESSOR KEITH ALLRED ABOUT HIS POLITICAL GROUP

— Aired Thursday, January 20 at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT

— Repeated Sunday, January 23 at 5:30/4:30 p.m. MT/PT

DIALOGUE featured Boise State University public policy professor Dr. Keith Allred as he talked with host Marcia Franklin about a new political group he's started that will lobby on behalf of political moderates.

Allred, the current Frank Church Distinguished Professor of Public Policy at Boise State University, discussed his new group called The Common Interest.

Allred was joined on air by two members of his group, Stephanie Bender-Kitz of Boise and Jerry Baltzell of Post Falls.

Allred and the group members discussed their views and took calls from viewers on a toll-free line.

Since the 2004 election, political researchers and the media have been emphasizing the division between “red” and “blue” voters. Allred believes there are moderate voters who are not included in that commentary, as well as voters who choose not to affiliate themselves with a political party.

He founded The Common Interest to serve those who feel the political process has become too “deeply partisan and beholden to special interests.” Using lists of registered voters in Idaho, he sent thousand of postcards inviting people to join the group, which will study issues before the Legislature, take positions and then lobby for those positions. Members of the group are required to commit one hour a year to the group and vote in primary and general elections.

DIALOGUE, produced by IdahoPTV, is Idaho’s only statewide public affairs television program.

BANKRUPTCY JUDGE, LAWYER ON DIALOGUE DISCUSSED SOCIETAL COST OF DEBT, BANKRUPTCY

— Aired Thursday, January 13 at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT
— Repeated Sunday, January 16 at 5:30/4:30 p.m. MT/PT

A federal bankruptcy judge and Boise lawyer appeared on DIALOGUE to discuss the societal costs of debt and bankruptcy.

Chief Bankruptcy Judge Jim D. Pappas and Kelly Green McConnell, a Boise lawyer specializing in bankruptcy joined DIALOGUE host Marcia Franklin to talk about how to avoid financial crisis, as well as where to go for help. The guests also talked about the dangers of what is called “payday loans,” as well as new legislation that gives credit card companies more power to raise interest rates and cancel accounts.

Judge Pappas, recently appointed to a second 14-year term, is one of two full-time federal bankruptcy judges in Idaho. He also was recently appointed by U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist to serve on the Federal Judicial Center’s Bankruptcy Education Committee.

McConnell specializes in banking, credit recovery and bankruptcy. She is the chair of the bankruptcy section of the Idaho Bar and a former columnist for The Idaho Statesman.

In 2003, Idaho ranked ninth highest among states for personal bankruptcies, with a record 9,660 bankruptcies. Leading causes are medical expenses, loss of employment, divorce and credit card debt.

STATEHOUSE REPORTERS ON DIALOGUE ASSESSED ISSUES FACING LEGISLATORS THIS SESSION

—Aired Thursday, January 6 at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT
—Repeated Sunday, January 9 at 5:30/4:30 p.m. MT/PT

DIALOGUE host Joan Cartan-Hansen was joined by Betsy Russell of the Idaho Edition of Spokesman-Review, Coeur d’Alene; Greg Hahn of The Idaho Statesman, Boise; and Corey Taule, of Post Register, Idaho Falls.

The three reporters previewed the session, which began in January. They discussed what they see as the major issues for Idaho lawmakers and how their decisions might affect the state.

DIALOGUE FOR KIDS EXPLORES POWER

-- Airs Tuesday, February 15 at 2:00/1:00 p.m. MT/PT

Electricity powers everything from this computer to the light in your room. Businesses, schools and homes all use electricity every day. But how is electricity created? Where does it come from? And how does it get into the plug? Students are encouraged to send in their questions for experts, Russ Weedon from Idaho Power and John Gardner of Boise State University, to answer live on television or on the Web site.

Students can e-mail their questions to dialogue4kids@idahoptv.org or they can FAX them in before the show at (208) 373-7245 or call in live during the program to (800) 973-9800.

DIALOGUE FOR KIDS WADED THROUGH WETLAND FACTS

— Aired January 18 at 2:00/1:00 p.m. MT/PT

DIALOGUE FOR KIDS waded through the facts about wetlands. Wildlife educator Adare Evans and biologist Ed Bottum, both of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, joined host Joan Cartan-Hansen to answer student questions on air.

Cartan-Hansen and her guests took calls from students statewide on a toll-free line.

Marshy, boggy and damp, wetlands play an important role in cleaning water and providing homes and food for animals. Why are wetlands disappearing and what can we do about it? Cartan-Hansen and guests answered these and many other questions.

Additional information and links regarding wetlands on the World Wide Web can be found at the DIALOGUE FOR KIDS Web site (idahoptv.org/dialogue4kids/index.html). The broadcast program, in addition to being audio- and video-streamed live on the Web, also will remain available in the DIALOGUE FOR KIDS archive on the Web site.

DIALOGUE FOR KIDS, produced by Idaho Public Television, airs the third Tuesday of the month throughout the school year and focuses on a variety of science-related topics.

PUBLIC TV SEEKS FUNDS FOR NEW GEAR MUCH OF IT IS 30 YEARS OLD AND BREAKING DOWN

Idaho Spokesman-Review

By Betsy Z. Russell Staff writer
February 1, 2005

BOISE – Idaho Public Television has been producing award-winning documentaries and public affairs shows despite struggling with broadcast equipment that's more than 30 years old, its general manager told lawmakers Monday.

In fact, the equipment is so fragile that last June, a central piece of it, a 1974-vintage video mixer, was irreparably damaged in a storm, triggering an appeal for federal aid and a state insurance claim.

"The equipment is 1970s, 1980s vintage, and it's well beyond its useful life," Peter Morrill told the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee.

House Appropriations Chairman Rep. Maxine Bell, R-Jerome, complimented Morrill on the breathtaking footage of Idaho's landscape, wildlife and people that flashed across display screens as he updated the joint budget committee on IPTV's activities.

"If you can do that with that old, antiquated equipment ... I don't know what you'd do if we actually gave you good equipment," she commented.

Replied Morrill: "I'd like to find out."

Gov. Dirk Kempthorne has called for funding the first phase of a three-phase plan to update IPTV's broadcasting equipment. It calls for replacing aging analog broadcast equipment, including such basics as cameras, lenses and tape machines, at the main studio in Boise with new digital equipment, at a cost of \$973,400.

Morrill said the plan is to update equipment in Moscow and Pocatello in the second phase, two years out, and to replace equipment in the state Capitol the year after that.

But some lawmakers were concerned about the price tag. "Yours is one that is a lofty request for the type of budget that we're going to set here," Senate Finance Chairman Dean Cameron, R-Rupert, told Morrill.

Sen. Mel Richardson, R-Idaho Falls, said he'd rather that Idaho didn't spend any money to support IPTV.

"I still have a little problem with tax dollars going into competition with private industry," said Richardson, a broadcaster. "There are literally hundreds of channels that are out there. ... You certainly have a product there that is worth privatizing."

However, Morrill noted that public television is "really of a non-commercial nature."

If Idaho Public TV were to lose its \$1.5 million in annual state funding – about one-quarter of its budget – it would have to pull back to serve just its most cost-effective market, Southwestern Idaho, Morrill said.

"If we lost state funding for public broadcasting, IPTV would shrink down to something like Southern Idaho Public Television, or maybe Southwestern Idaho Public Television," he said. "The numbers do not suggest that we'd be able to maintain the statewide reach that we have."

IPTV now serves 97 percent of the state – the only medium that does so, Morrill said. Because of Idaho's geography, size, and fragmented markets, the state has no statewide newspaper, radio station or commercial television.

Currently, only 14 staff positions at IPTV are supported by state dollars. Nineteen are funded by federal Corporation for Public Broadcasting grants, and 21 by private donations.

Rep. Shirley Ringo, D-Moscow, said after the budget hearing that she thought privatization was "a horrible idea."

"When I compare the quality of public TV programming to that in the private sector, it makes me wonder if the private sector shouldn't be looking to go public," she said.

Ringo said she supports the governor's equipment-replacement proposal. "There comes a time when you absolutely have to do it," she said. "It's been ignored for two years prior to this. The need is genuine."

She added, "It's quite possible that by waiting, there are parts of the state that could lose access to the programming."

The IPTV budget hearing came on the same day that the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee heard the Idaho State Historical Society's budget pitch, which director Steve Guerber delivered in costume, portraying Capt. John Mullan.

Mullan charted the famous Mullan Road, and Guerber shared his story while pleading for more funding to address historic preservation in Idaho, including the stories told by the many historic trails and roads that crisscross the state.

Idaho has a backlog of more than \$2 million in needed maintenance on its historic buildings, but the state has "zeroed out" the budget to address that for the last four years straight, Guerber noted.

He said the Historical Society also has had increased demands for archival materials due to water issues and homeland security questions, but remains seriously shorthanded, with just three archivists for a job that national standards say should take 15.

Rep. Margaret Henbest, D-Boise, asked, "Even though your workload has increased, none of the \$18 million in homeland security money that has come to the state has made its way to your budget?"

"That would be a good assumption," Guerber responded.