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Quote

"We are impressed with Idaho Public Television. Best in the West –probably the East too."

Jon and Mardee Wyman,
IdahoPTV Members

IdahoPTV Honored With Murrow Award And Six Emmy Nominations



In April, IdahoPTV received accolades from the Edward R. Murrow Awards.

The Radio-Television News Directors Association (RTNDA) honored OUTDOOR IDAHO: SILVER VALLEY RISING with a Regional Murrow Award in the News Documentary category. RTNDA has been honoring outstanding achievements in electronic journalism with the Edward R. Murrow Awards since 1971.

In addition, on Friday, April 21, the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences honored IdahoPTV with six nominations for regional Emmy Awards. They include:

2006 Northwest Emmy Nominations

Documentary - Cultural/Historical

"Outdoor Idaho: Lewis and Clark Among the Tribes"

"Outdoor Idaho: Back to the Past"

Public Affairs - Special or Series

"Outdoor Idaho: Silver Valley Rising"

Informational - Interview/Discussion Program

"Dialogue: Nez Perce Water Agreement"

Entertainment Special or Series

"Picturing Idaho"

Cultural/Fine Arts Special or Series

"West of the Basque"

The only other Idaho recipient of Emmy nominations is KTVB, Boise with three nominations.

Congratulations to our outstanding staff for these great accomplishments in providing quality educational programming and services to our state!



–Beginning in January 2007, Idaho Public Television in collaboration with Legislative Services and the Idaho Department of Administration will expand our audio web streaming of Idaho Legislature live, gavel to gavel floor debate from the House of Representatives and Senate chambers to include “C-Span-like” video streaming coverage. This new live service will be offered through idahoptv.org and on our statewide digital television system. We are beginning to work with local cable operators around the state to offer these new live services through their systems. This new initiative is the culmination of nearly five years of planning in collaboration with Legislative Services and the Idaho Department of Administration. We’ll keep you posted about this exciting service.

–On April 20, I gave an agency update to the Idaho State Board of Education at their monthly meeting in Moscow. The focus was on the multi-year mandated digital conversion and IdahoPTV’s strategic goals for the 2007 Legislature.

My presentation looked back to the origins of the federal mandate for television broadcasters to convert to digital, our 1999 Multi-Year Idaho Plan to convert our statewide facilities to digital, what we’ve accomplished, and finally, what additional steps we need to take to finalize our statewide conversion. In addition, I reviewed the budget actions of the 2006 Legislature and the impact on the IdahoPTV FY 2007 budget:

- Operating budget, MCO
- Replacement capital, total \$1,590,000
 - KISU studio upgrade in conjunction with the move of facilities by ISU, \$929,900
 - 12 rural translator site upgrades to digital, \$608,100
 - Replacement of 2 field trucks, \$52,000

Also, I outlined our strategic goals for fiscal year 2008:

- KUID Studio Upgrade (Phase 2.5 of 3 Statewide Studio Production Upgrade), @ \$840,000
- Potential migration costs associated with building safety and ADA mitigation in the University of Idaho owned KUID building, amount: pending
- Translator digital conversions, 9 sites, \$450,000
- Network Operation Center video file server replacement, \$250,000

Since my presentation, local stations have been notified by the Federal Communications Commission that new requirements for implementation of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) will be required within the Fiscal Year ‘08. We will be requesting approximately \$70,000 for capital equipment to provide this required EAS statewide on digital television.

–Author and NewsHour Anchor Jim Lehrer to Speak in Boise in November

Jim Lehrer, novelist and PBS anchor of The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, will give the Idaho Humanities Council’s 10th Annual Distinguished Humanities Lecture on Friday, November 17, 2006, at Boise’s Centre on the Grove. A Benefactors reception with the author will be held at a private home prior to the event. Lehrer’s books will be available for sale at the event, and a silent auction of rare and first edition books by different authors will be set up in the Centre lobby. The event is made possible in part by the OfficeMax Boise Community Fund and Idaho Public Television.

Due to limited seating, those interested in attending are encouraged to book early. For ticket information, call the IHC toll-free at 888/345-5346 or at 345-5346 in the Boise calling area, or visit www.idahohumanities.org.

–In April, I met with Doug Armstrong, General Manager of KTVB-TV, Boise (NBC) to review and reaffirm our mutual pledge to collaborate and cooperate during times of emergency. IdahoPTV has a long tradition of working with fellow broadcasters statewide on emergency preparedness including Emergency Alert Services, Amber Alert, programming, facility and personnel sharing.

–In early April, First Lady Patricia Kempthorne recorded a promotional spot highlighting and celebrating the “Week of the Young Child.” The spot was produced in collaboration with the Association for the Education of Young Children (AEYC) and aired statewide.

–On Thursday, April 27, I participated on a panel of five public broadcasting executives to select the 2006 recipient of the Ralph Lowell Award given by the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). The Lowell Award is the highest award given in public broadcasting. Past recipients include Ken Burns, Julia Child and Bill Moyers.

Signals And Technology Update



On May 15, 2006, IdahoPTV will submit a major competitive grant request to the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Utility Service (RUS), to fund the upgrade to digital of five translators. The five translator sites are Hagerman, ID (K65AQ), Malta, ID (K23DO), McDermitt, NV (K50CZ), Montpelier, ID (K52EC) and West Yellowstone, MT (K30BC). The grant also requests funds to acquire three backup electrical power/conditioning at three critical sites in our statewide analog and digital television system at the Network Operations Center in Boise, East Butte (45 miles west of Idaho Falls) and Paradise Ridge (5 miles southeast of Moscow) transmission sites. The grant requests approximately \$600,000 in capitol funds and requires no local match. The grant awardees will be announced this coming fall. Wish us luck!

IdahoPTV Staff Updates and Transitions

–We welcome Kip Michelson who will be working part-time at our main reception area in Boise.

–It is with great sadness to announce that Kathy (Katt) Robran, IT Systems Operations Supervisor, resigned her position on April 21, 2006 due to long-term health problems. Katt has worked for IdahoPTV for two and half years and will be missed.

–Morgan Dethman, Graphic Artist for eight years has resigned her full-time position, but will continue to work for IdahoPTV on a part-time basis. Earlier this winter Morgan gave birth to Cleo and has been on maternity leave.

IdahoPTV Reaches Out

–On April 6, I spoke to two 90-minute undergraduate classes at the University of Idaho.

–On April 19, Geoffrey Ward, a noted biographer, historian and writer of many of Ken Burn's documentary, spoke at the University of Idaho.

–On April 20, Ron Pisaneschi, IdahoPTV Director of Broadcasting and I attended a reception for north Idaho legislators at the Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce. I spoke on the new service to provide video of next year's Legislature.

–On April 20, Production Manager Jeff Tucker addressed the PBS Technology Conference on IdahoPTV's new media initiatives including audio podcasting, video streaming on the web and cell phones.



2006 IDAHO DEBATES on Idaho Public Television

Idaho Public Television, in conjunction with the League of Women Voters and the Idaho Press Club, continues its more than 25-year tradition of broadcasting political debates. During May, IdahoPTV is hosting debates among candidates for congressional and Idaho state offices that have primary contests. The Idaho primaries will be Tuesday, May 23.

During the televised debates, the candidates face questions from a panel representing the Idaho Press Club. Marcia Franklin is the IdahoPTV moderator for the Tuesday and Thursday debates. Jim Peck will moderate the Wednesday debates.

“For more than two decades, IdahoPTV has been the station of record for Idaho's candidate debates,” says Franklin. “We are proud to host them, to help voters make more-informed choices.”

Debates are scheduled for the following statewide and congressional offices. All are one hour in length, with the exception of the final debate, which is 90 minutes long.

Lieutenant Governor: Democrat

Airs Tuesday, May 9, at 8:00/7:00 p.m. MT/PT

Attorney General: Republican

Airs Wednesday, May 10 at 8:00 p.m. MT/PT

Governor: Republican

Airs Thursday, May 11, at 8:00/7:00 p.m. MT/PT

Superintendent of Public Instruction: Democrat

Airs Tuesday, May 16, at 8:00/7:00 p.m. MT/PT

Superintendent of Public Instruction: Republican

Airs Wednesday, May 17, at 8:00 p.m. MT/PT

First Congressional District: Republican

Airs Thursday, May 18, at 7:00 p.m. MT/PT



Idaho Readies for Bird Flu

–Aired Thursday, April 20, at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT
–Repeated Sunday, April 23, at 5:30/4:30 p.m. MT/PT

Health experts appeared on DIALOGUE to discuss the potential for an avian flu outbreak in the United States and locally as the disease spreads internationally. Host Joan Cartan-Hansen was joined by Dr. Uwe Reischl, director of the Center for Health Policy at Boise State University; Dr. Mark Drew, wildlife veterinarian with the Idaho Departments of Agriculture and Fish and Game; and Dick Shultz, State Health Officer for Idaho. They explained the current situation and described possible scenarios for the near future.

Governments around the world, including U.S. officials, are preparing for the possibility of a pandemic outbreak of bird or avian flu. During a recent World Economic Forum, delegates ranked the flu second only to rising oil prices in a list of threats to global economies. Epidemiologists have accelerated their investigation of its causes, prevention and cure.

Host Cartan-Hansen and her guests looked at why this animal disease might harm humans, which populations are at risk, and how the disease is transmitted.

During the live call-in show on Thursday, Cartan-Hansen and her guests took calls from viewers on a toll-free line.

DIALOGUE, produced by IdahoPTV, is Idaho's only weekly statewide public affairs program. The program is funded by the Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation. Individual DIALOGUE programs are archived on the IdahoPTV Web site at idahoptv.org/dialogue and can be Web streamed for later viewing. An audio-only MP3 version is available through a DIALOGUE podcast, also found on the DIALOGUE Web site. The audio of DIALOGUE also can be heard in Southwest Idaho on Boise State Radio NPR News 91, Sundays at 8:00 a.m. MT.

Looking at Global Warming

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

Last year was the hottest on record and the earth's temperatures are expected to continue to rise. Scientists report Antarctica is losing 36 cubic miles of ice annually. Some predict sea levels will rise three feet by 2100. That could put much of America's coastlines underwater, threatening major population centers. What is global warming doing to the world? Has the earth reached the tipping point? How will climate change affect Idaho?

On this episode of Dialogue, host Joan Cartan-Hansen was joined by Russell Qualls, Idaho's State Climatologist and Mitch Plummer, Hydrogeologist, Idaho National Laboratory to discuss the latest scientific studies about global warming, its impact and Idaho's future.

Preventing Child Abuse

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

An expert who evaluates and treats sex offenders appeared on this episode of DIALOGUE to discuss how Idahoans can help prevent child abuse and molestations.

Host Joan Cartan-Hansen spoke with Cory Jewell Jensen, M.S., director of the Center for Behavioral Intervention in Beaverton, OR. Based on her work with sex offenders and sexual predators, Jewell Jensen believes that people should listen to convicted child molesters to learn how to prevent abuse. She says molesters repeatedly mention that adults are as easy to fool as children, and that tricking children is easy.

She contends traditional child sex abuse prevention problems are ineffective, and advocates a new approach: putting the responsibility for prevention on adults rather than on children. She also challenges the idea that children should be responsible for reporting abuse, and argues that the "Say no, go tell" approach is not working. Instead, adults should take the responsibility for noticing and reporting suspected abuse — even when it involves people who others might believe are above reproach.



Bears

–Aired Tuesday, April 18, at 2:00/1:00 p.m.
 MT/PT

DIALOGUE FOR KIDS, Idaho Public Television's live monthly educational program, welcomed two guests from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to discuss bears and describe their role in our environment.

Bears are exciting characters in myths and legends, but they also help maintain the health of the land in which they live. The world is home to eight different kinds of bears, and this program describes all of them.

Students were invited to ask questions about the ursine life-style, such as:
 What kinds of bears live in Idaho? What do they like to eat? Do they really sleep all winter without eating?

Host Joan Cartan-Hansen and her guests, Wayne Wakkinen, biologist, and Gregg Losinski, conservation educator, took questions from students statewide on a toll-free line and student viewers could also send questions by e-mail.

Additional information about bears and links to more bear-related Web sites are available at the DIALOGUE FOR KIDS Web site: idahoptv.org/dialogue4kids/. The broadcast program, in addition to being audio- and video-streamed on the Web, 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.



Live Streaming of Kempthorne's Senate Hearing

At press time, IdahoPTV is finalizing the details with KTVB-TV, Boise that will allow us to provide video/audio streaming and potentially live broadcast over IdahoPTV's digital channel CITIZEN of Governor Kempthorne's confirmation hearings before the United States Senate. Stay tuned for more details.

IdahoPTV Offers Webcasts of House, Senate Votes on Property Tax

This legislative session's historic debates on Idaho property-tax measures, water rights and a variety of other key issues are available at idahoptv.org/idreports. The archived coverage is available online as a streamed Microsoft Windows Media file.

Go to idahoptv.org/idreports to view coverage of the legislative session and recorded coverage of key House and Senate actions.

April 2006: Statewide READING RAINBOW Competition Winners Announced

Continuing a tradition that began as a national event, Idaho Public Television invited children in kindergarten through third grade to submit illustrated stories for the READING RAINBOW Young Writers and Illustrators Awards contest. The winners have been announced, and IdahoPTV stations in each of the three regional markets will coordinate awards ceremonies that are scheduled for May.

READING RAINBOW is an Emmy Award-winning PBS series that takes young viewers on adventures that stimulate their interest in reading for pleasure and entertainment. Its fast-paced, magazine-style format features on-location, up-close views of real-life experiences.

Contestants wrote stories illustrated with at least five pictures and submitted the entries to their regional IdahoPTV stations. Statewide, 784 students submitted entries to IdahoPTV regional stations for the 12th annual competition. In Southwest Idaho, KAID/Boise received 403 submissions, and KISU/Pocatello received 168 entries from students in Eastern Idaho. In North Idaho, 213 students submitted stories to KUID, Moscow.

Entries are judged on originality, creative expression, storytelling and integration of text and pictures. First-place stories from each region of Idaho will be available by the end of May for viewing on the IdahoPTV Web site, www.idahoptv.org.

The following students have been recognized in each grade level:

Kindergarten

First place

- "Where is Berkie?" by Berkley Walker, Weiser
- "My Best Friend," by Hailey Russell, Grangeville
- "Two Pals," by Sage Patchin, Shelley

Second place

Olivia Robison, Boise; Victoria Modica, Coeur d'Alene; Taylor McCracken, Idaho Falls

Third place

Jacob Turner, Nampa; James Carlson, Post Falls; Avery Stansberry, Salmon

First grade

First place

- "The Lizardfly," by Andrei Dubon, Boise
- "The Weed and the Flower," by Jocie Osika, Coeur d'Alene
- "Ocean, Ocean," by Ellaini Bailey, Pocatello

Second place

Grace Rosenvall, Boise; Nolan Stidham, Bonners Ferry; Sierra Ranstrom, Pingree

Third place

Samantha Battaglia, Meridian; Allison Warner, Clark Fork; Paige Moser, Preston

Second grade**First place**

"Chloe Catches a Wave," by Sheridan Meyer, Boise

"My Invisible Friend," by Mary Everett, Lewiston

"The Fountan," by Rylee Mackay, Salmon

Second place

Madison Pike, Meridian; Casey Beard, Post Falls; Mason Baker, Idaho Falls

Third place

McK Schroeder, New Plymouth; Samantha Heuscher, Hope; Kallie Brown, Idaho Falls

Third grade**First place**

"Something Fishy at Lake Suma," by Sylvia Kramer, Meridian

"Repunzel's Bad Day," by Joanna Stenzel, Nezperce

"Cats and Dogs in Arkansas," by Sydney Klemann, Kimberly

Second place

Sam Potter, Emmett; Amy Wren, Lewiston; Clair May, Idaho Falls

Third place

Emily Schuermann, Emmett; Ashley Johnson, Lewiston; Jordan Lee, Idaho Falls

Our partners at Hastings Books, Music and Video will host the two North Idaho winners' celebrations in Coeur d'Alene and Lewiston on Saturday, May 6, and in Boise on Saturday, May 13, both at 2:00 p.m. The Eastern Idaho regional celebration also is divided into two events: Eagle Rock Art Museum in Idaho Falls hosts a celebration on Tuesday, May 9, at 6:00 p.m., and Pocatello's event will be held at the Marshall Public Library on Wednesday, May 10, at 6:00 p.m.

News From Around Idaho...

Legislature pulls plug on plans for UI public television

By Dean A. Ferguson
of the Tribune
March 31, 2006

BOISE -- The University of Idaho's public television station takes a back seat to Pocatello and a dozen rural translator stations this year, the Idaho House of Representatives decided Thursday.

Moscow's representative told fellow lawmakers they were spending more state money than necessary and accomplishing less.

Representatives voted 53-13 for a \$4.065 million appropriation for the Idaho Educational Public Broadcasting System. The bill now goes to the governor for his signature.

Although the governor asked for money for both university television stations, KUID at the UI came out a loser and KISU at Idaho State University in Pocatello came out a winner. Boise State University has already modernized its television station.

"I wanted to do a studio in Moscow," said Rep. R.J. (Dick) Harwood, R-St. Maries, who crafted the appropriation package that left Moscow out.

KUID needs \$800,000 to modernize its television studio. KISU needs \$929,000.

Harwood chose to cut the UI station and fund the ISU station because it is scheduled to change location this year.

"That studio, it's going to be moved clean across campus," Harwood said.

Harwood also decided to pay for digital upgrades for seven more translator stations than public television budgeters had asked for.

"We took \$608,000 to upgrade stations to digital instead of doing Moscow," Harwood said. The reason for kicking up the upgrade schedule was to be certain the translators met a February 2009 deadline set by the federal government, he explained.

"If these broadcast stations don't get fixed up before 2009, a lot of rural Idaho might be without public television," Harwood said.

Moscow's representative said the Harwood proposal was "silly" because it ignores the possibility of federal grants that public television is applying for to upgrade translator stations.

"We could have got money from the federal government rather than take it out of the Economic Recovery Fund," Rep. Shirley Ringo, D-Moscow, said.

The state budget committee took \$1.59 million from the Economic Recovery Reserve Fund to pay for KISU's studio, the rural translator stations and two field trucks (\$52,000).

During budget committee hearings, Ringo offered another proposal that was \$300,000 more than Harwood's, and would have modernized the UI studio, the ISU studio as well as upgrade five rural translator stations.

Ringo and Rep. Tom Trail, R-Moscow, voted against Harwood's bill. Reps. Paul Shepherd, R-Riggins, Ken Roberts, R-Donnelly, Mike Mitchell, D-Lewiston, and John Rusche, D-Lewiston, voted for it.

Regardless of the appropriation level both Harwood and Ringo said Public Television General Manager Peter Morrill has said he can make the appropriation work.

"Public television was pretty happy about what we did," Harwood said.

KUID upgrade on hold for at least another year; Pocatello station gets priority from lawmakers

Moscow-Pullman Daily News, April 8, 2006

By Kate Baldwin

Daily News staff writer

Ryan Hammon compared the studio cameras at the KUID television station to dinosaurs.

"They look pretty old and they're big and bulky," the University of Idaho junior said.

Hammon had looked forward to working with new high-definition cameras, but he will graduate before they ever arrive. Like many on campus, he thought studio upgrades were supposed to come this year.

Now Hammon and more than 100 other students must wait at least another year for their station to undergo its federally mandated conversion from analog to digital production.

The change is required for the entire Idaho Public Television system, but the local conversion is being held up because of a decision of the Legislature.

Peter W. Morrill, general manager for Idaho Public Television, said the original budget request included money to upgrade KUID, but the Legislature had a different plan with the appropriation.

Legislators provided Idaho Public Television with a total appropriation of \$4.065 million and earmarked \$1.6 million to finance the newest phase of the conversion.

“The funds they allocated for this year — from what I can tell — is far and away the most generous appropriation the state has made to Idaho Public Television,” he said.

The state’s plan covered upgrades for:

- * The KISU studio in Pocatello at \$929,900;
- * Two field vehicles at \$52,000; and
- * Twelve translators, which relay signals to rural regions, at \$608,100.

But the plan doesn’t support upgrading the Moscow station.

“We will continue to produce (at KUID) as we have in the past,” Morrill said, adding that the lack of funding does not affect KUID’s day-to-day budget. It only affects replacement capital — the money used to upgrade equipment and facilities.

“The operational budget was not affected whatsoever,” he said.

Kenton Bird, director of the UI’s School of Journalism and Mass Media, said the biggest disappointment was felt by students, especially the juniors.

If the Legislature had approved this year’s funding, Bird had hoped the digital cameras would have arrived in the Moscow studio sometime in 2007.

“I don’t want to seem ungrateful, because we are all part of the statewide system,” Bird said. “Anything that benefits any of the stations benefits the whole network.”

The state’s push for the change to digital systems began with federal acts in 1995 and 1997. Idaho Public Television responded in 1999 with an incremental plan to adapt its five transmitters, 37 translators and four basic studios.

“It had more phases than the moon,” Morrill said.

The scheduled plan would have upgraded both Moscow and Pocatello this year, he said.

That changed when President Bush established a shut-off date of February 2009 for all public television analog transmitters.

Morrill said the deadline hit the newspapers at the same time state legislators were discussing the funding request.

The legislators decided to alter the original request by increasing the number of translators conversions and delaying the KUID upgrades.

There were two key reasons Pocatello got its money before Moscow — timing and cost, Morrill said.

Idaho State University already had prepared to move its studio from one building to another as part of a long-term facilities design. By upgrading now, the KISU studio renovations fit with ISU’s plans, and most legislators wanted to complete the pricier Pocatello project while they had enough money for it, he said.

“We’re in a unique period of time with significant federal mandates and significant consequences,” Morrill said. “I think very honestly, as a statewide system, we’ll be able to work with their suggestion.”

Both Bird and Morrill remain optimistic about the future of KUID.

Morrill said he never heard negative comments about the Moscow studio from legislators. He also begins his next funding request in two weeks, which will include provisions for KUID.

Hammon said once the financial support comes, “about everything in their studio needs to be updated.”

"The switcher, the audio board, cameras and mics... it still does function but is not the best," Hammon said.

Morrill agreed. He referred to the equipment as "vintage," with some pieces that are so old replacement parts are no longer available.

"Some of this stuff was built before disco ... literally," he said. "There is a ticking clock out there."

Panhandle legislator favors Pocatello TV station

Monday, April 10, 2006
Lewiston Tribune
Jim Fisher

Most legislators can be expected, whatever else they do, to look after the state services in the regions they represent. But then, most legislators are not Idaho state Rep. Dick Harwood.

Harwood, R-St. Maries, is the guy who persuaded members of the Legislature's budget committee to pull money for modernization of the KUID-TV studio at Moscow from the public television appropriation and give the money to KISU-TV at Pocatello.

"That studio, it's going to be moved clean across campus," Harwood said in explanation of the bizarre move.

That's partly why KISU was in line to receive \$929,000, while KUID, located on the University of Idaho campus, was slated for \$800,000. Both stations need improvements, including the final installment of a conversion to digital broadcasting. And upgrades to both were included in the state public television system's budget request, and were recommended in Gov. Dirk Kempthorne's budget plan.

Harwood knew better, though. In addition to favoring southeastern Idaho's station, he says he wanted to convert translators through which rural areas receive public TV to digital capability.

"We took \$608,000 to upgrade stations to digital instead of doing Moscow," he said.

Those translators had not been forgotten in the state budget, however. Plans were in motion to pay for their conversion through federal grants available for the purpose. That makes Harwood's successful motion in committee look even more foolish.

Fortunately, the manager of the state's public TV system, Peter Morrill, says he can work within the budget the full House later passed to keep any part of the system from falling behind. That means KUID can get the improvements it needs after all -- no thanks to Dick Harwood.