Quotes

“We are proud to support such wonderful programming for us and our grandkids as well. So refreshing to have such a healthy and appropriate variety of programs for all ages. Keep up the great work!” –David and Valerie

“This was seriously one of the best, craziest, hardest, scariest, most worthwhile experiences of my teaching career. I learned A LOT about tech and videoing, and my own annoying habits when I teach ha ha. Thank you Kari Wardle for convincing me I could do it and bailing me out when the tech wouldn’t work, and thank you to Idaho PTV for coming up with such an amazing idea to help teachers reach as many kids across Idaho as possible.” –Stephanie

Broadcast Schedule Changes in Pacific Time Zone

Beginning June 1, viewers in the Pacific time zone will see a one-hour shift in the broadcast schedule on our Plus, World, Create and PBS Kids channels. Programs will broadcast one hour later. Programs on our main Idaho channel made the one-hour time shift several years ago.

This change allows us to broadcast programs across all five of our channels at a consistent time throughout Idaho. Live events such as the governor’s press conferences, presidential State of the Union addresses, emergency broadcasts, etc. will continue to be broadcast in real time across both time zones.

Awards

Congratulations to our amazing Outdoor Idaho production team for being honored with a regional Edward R. Murrow Award in the News Documentary category for our special “State of Change.” As stated on their website: Since 1971, RTDNA (Radio, Television, Digital News Association) has been honoring outstanding achievements in broadcast and digital journalism with the Edward R. Murrow Awards. Among the most prestigious in news, the Murrow Awards recognize local and national news stories that uphold the RTDNA Code of Ethics, demonstrate technical expertise and exemplify the importance and impact of journalism as a service to the community. Murrow Award winning work demonstrates the excellence that Edward R. Murrow made a standard for the broadcast news profession.

IdahoPTV is part of the NW Region that includes Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Montana and Idaho. Unlike the Emmys, which separate regional and national awards, with the Murrow Awards, we are now entered into the national awards competing against all the other regional winners from across the country in the News Documentary category. That contest’s winners will be announced later this year.
Congratulations to our amazing production team for our wins at the Telly Awards that were announced this week! The Telly Awards was founded in 1979 to honor excellence in local, regional, and cable television commercials with non-broadcast video and television programming added soon after. With the recent evolution and rise of digital video (web series, VR, 360 and beyond), the Telly Awards today also reflects and celebrates this exciting new era of the moving image on and offline. The Telly Awards annually showcases the best work created within television and across video, for all screens. Receiving over 12,000 entries from all 50 states and 5 continents, Telly Award winners represent work from some of the most respected advertising agencies, television stations, production companies and publishers from around the world. Idaho Public Television did especially well this year. Here are the winners:

Television
Gold – Idaho Experience “Out of the Shadows,” Cultural
Silver – Idaho Experience “Pioneers of the Air,” History
Bronze – Science Trek “Mountain Goats: Kids, Nannies and Billies,” Education
Bronze – Outdoor Idaho “Lost River Range,” Information
Bronze – Idaho Experience “Idaho’s Mail-Order Messiah,” History

Online
Bronze – Science Trek 360° “From the Bee to the Jar,” Immersive Science & Technology
Bronze – Dialogue “Novelist Emily Ruskovich: Conversations From the Sun Valley Writers’ Conference,” Talk Show

In the Community

PBS Selects Digital Innovators

Idaho Public Television is excited to announce that Gabriel Garcia, a teacher in the Boise School District, is one of 19 educators nationwide recognized as a PBS Digital Innovator All-Star. Garcia teaches video production at Capital High School and computer science at Riverglen Junior High School in Boise.

Each of the Digital Innovator All-Stars was selected from a cohort of extraordinary educators characterized by their ability to seamlessly integrate media and digital technology into their learning environments and to inspire students to use media and emerging technologies in responsible, effective and empowering ways.

Garcia was named Idaho’s PBS Digital Innovator in May 2019, which put him into consideration for the national All-Star honor. The PBS Digital Innovator All-Star program expands on these educators’ influential work, deepening their roles as leaders in integrating technology and digital media into the classroom — supporting students’ learning through increasingly important media literacy skills.

“PBS is honored to recognize these educators for the invaluable role they play in their communities,” says Sara Schapiro, Vice President of Education at PBS. “We have been especially proud of the work they continue to do in these unprecedented times, establishing new and innovative teaching techniques through distance learning, further solidifying the reasons they were distinguished as PBS Digital Innovator All-Stars.”

In partnership with Idaho Public Television, Garcia will spend the 2020-2021 school year deepening engagement among students, families, educators, schools, and IdahoPTV education staff. As an exclusive part of the program, Garcia will have access to virtual and in-person events, including the PBS Digital Innovator All-Star Summit, to connect and learn with peers and station representatives from across the country.
PBS Media Literacy Certification

IdahoPTV is partnering with our PBS Digital Innovator All-Star to offer the PBS Media Literacy Certification by KQED as a virtual professional development course for Boise School District teachers this summer. Teachers can receive four professional development credits from either Boise State University or Northwest Nazarene University. The course will last 8 weeks and begins on June 1. Currently we have 25 teachers registered for the course.

Bright by Text Supports Healthy Child Development and Builds Strong, Resilient Families

Looking for some help engaging your little one? Simply text IDAHOFAMILY to the number 274448. Bright by Text is a free service offered in English and Spanish. Games and activities to help kids learn at home are tailored to the age of your child and texted directly to you for free 2-4 times a week.

To help parents navigate the latest information and recommendations to ensure the health of families, Bright by Text offers expert tips about community resources, safety protocols and at-home activities to engage children. Bright by Text collaborates with experts like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, PBS Kids, Nurse-Family Partnership and others to provide an expert-backed health and wellness curriculum.

“IdahoPTV is excited to partner with Bright by Text to meet the needs of Idaho families. This gives us a greater opportunity to get our resources into the hands of parents who may not have the internet or the ability to attend activities with their kids. Bright by Text is a creative way to reach out to families with very young learners and help set children up for success from cradle to career.” — Samantha Hill, M.Ed., IdahoPTV Family Engagement Specialist. For more information visit www.idahoptv.org/families.

Ready to Learn: Countdown to Kindergarten

IdahoPTV is in the planning phase of a new initiative called Ready to Learn: Countdown to Kindergarten. We are excited to partner with Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children (IdahoAEYC) to host a statewide, virtual Countdown to Kindergarten event intended for parents of incoming kindergartners. Due to COVID-19 and the inability to hold in-person functions, many kindergarten registration events across the state were canceled. These events are imperative to the success of incoming kindergarten students, and we recognize the importance of bringing this information to families in an alternate format.

IdahoPTV and IdahoAEYC are passionate about helping districts, schools and teachers reach their incoming kindergarten class. We know during all of the uncertainty many families have questions and do not know where to get answers. This is not meant to replace what schools are doing to welcome these families but instead enhance it by working together to ease the worries of parents who have kindergarten students beginning in the fall.
IdahoPTV’s Family Engagement Specialist, Samantha Hill, has created a Virtual Book Club for 3-6 grade students, and she already has more than 65 students signed up. On May 11, they began reading “The Bridge to Terabithia” by Katherine Paterson. Each week, Samantha will email audio recordings of each chapter to support kids who prefer to follow along while listening. Here is the link to sign up for the book club: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdDIFMfa-whcpAE9P8XzFXiiQHYZZAF7OOM7e4a6Xfnj36Rgw/viewform.

Poster Contest Winners

Thank you for making our first poster contest a success! We had nearly 70 participants and saw some amazing artwork, which made it tough for our judges!

These are the winners:

Ages 3-5

“I love Luna because she is the moon and I love the moon. Oh, also I love her HAT!” – Deja

Ages 6-8

“I like Chris Kratt because he goes on awesome adventures. He also makes cool inventions.” – Bronson

Ages 9-12

“I love this character because we have a lot in common. We both love math, we are smart, whenever I watch Arthur I look forward to seeing him. That’s why I love this character!” – Kylee

Ages 13-18

“I love Oscar because he is funny and is always grouchy like me.” – Ian

Ages 18+

“Super Grover’s greatest super power is that he shows up to help. We don’t have to have super powers to help others. We just have to show up and pitch in.” – Lori
“Butterflies & Animal Migration”

In new video shorts, host Joan Cartan-Hansen explores fascinating facts about butterflies and the reasons animals migrate from one part of the country to another. Each month, Science Trek explores a subject with digital shorts available on the Science Trek website (scietrek.org), on YouTube, and on PBS LearningMedia. The Science Trek website has facts, games, links, and lesson plans correlated to Idaho and national science standards.

IdahoPTV in the News

Drive for laptops not over yet

By DEVIN WEEKS
Staff Writer | May 12, 2020 1:00 AM

Project seeks computers, connectivity to close ‘digital divide’

The Community Activation Project is in its final push to get devices in the hands of students and to provide those students with internet access before the school year ends.

“It’s amazing just how fast we stood it up and what great progress we’re making,” Rod Gramer, president and CEO of Idaho Business for Education, said Thursday.

IBE launched the Community Activation Project in late March after school closures put on the pressure for communities to have connectivity to allow students to continue school through remote learning.

In the five weeks since the project began, seven teams across Idaho have gathered 1,200 laptop computers (worth roughly $120,000), distributed more than 1,000 devices to school districts across the state and collected more than $200,000 for the Internet for Students Emergency Fund created in the Idaho Community Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to enriching the quality of life throughout Idaho.

In this process, donations from businesses and individuals have helped get devices to students. However, Gramer said it’s become resoundingly clear that connectivity in Idaho will be a major undertaking, especially in the most rural areas.
“That’s really been eye-opening,” he said. “That is a much bigger challenge than I thought going into this. That aspect of the battle has gone a little slower; we’ve had to talk to one district at a time to fill the gaps.”

School districts and libraries have provided WiFi wherever possible, including library parking lots and buses wired for hot spots. Starting May 18, Gramer said IBE teams will be starting a second phase heavily focused on mapping data, working with providers and closing the digital divide so students across Idaho have the opportunity to learn remotely.

“We’re not giving up,” Gramer said. “We’re going to continue this battle in the second phase.”

Donated devices must be less than eight years old and be a Windows-based PC with: • 64-bit x86 processor or equivalent • At least 2 GB of memory (RAM) • USB port • Hard drive (4GB or larger)

Drop-off locations: Trinity Lutheran Church, 812 N. Fifth St., Coeur d’Alene; and the Post Falls Chamber of Commerce, 201 E. Fourth Ave., Post Falls.

For households with access to TV but not internet, Idaho Public Television and certified Idaho teachers are also providing a multitude of educational “Classroom Idaho: Learn @ Home” programming for students beginning with third grade lessons at 7 a.m., fourth grade at 8 a.m., fifth grade at 9 a.m., sixth grade at 10 a.m. and repeating at noon. No cable needed, just an antenna to receive the public access channel of 26.3 in Coeur d’Alene.

“We recognize that there were thousands of school-age kids who were at home who do not have access to internet either because they don’t have broadband in their home or don’t have devices, but virtually every home has access to a television,” said Idaho Public TV general manager Ron Pisaneschi. “We decided we were going to use the power of public TV to provide instruction to students.”