December 2020

2D Barcode

Past GM Reports

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Quote
“Thank you for the quality and range of programming you provide. I have an elderly family member living with me and your station is a life line.” – Nancy

Join us for a weekend of special programming December 4 – 6.

Enjoy a weekend filled with music, travel, Idaho nostalgia, and outdoor adventure.

Blenko Glass: Behind the Scenes (Friday, Dec. 4, at 9 p.m.) travels to the hills of Milton, West Virginia, to discover how each unique piece of beautiful, hand-blown glassware is created at the family-owned Blenko Glassworks by human hands and hearts, not by impersonal machines.

The Avett Brothers perform songs highlighting their energetic and eclectic combination of bluegrass, country, punk, pop melodies, folk and indie rock in a concert at a stunning Colorado outdoor venue in The Avett Brothers at Red Rocks (Friday, Dec. 4, at 10 p.m.).

On May 5, 1973, Johnny Cash performed a stellar set at the Ahmanson Theatre in Los Angeles, featuring an appearance by his wife, June Carter Cash. The recently discovered footage airs for the first time in Johnny Cash: A Night to Remember (Saturday, Dec. 5, at 5:30 p.m.).

Recorded in Norway in February 2020, Judy Collins – Winter Stories (Saturday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m.) is a collection of seasonal tales and emotionally evocative songs by folk singer-songwriter Collins with Norwegian folk artist Jonas Fjeld and American bluegrass band Chatham County Line.

ABBA Forever – A Celebration (Saturday, Dec. 5, at 8:30 p.m.) combines live performance clips with exclusive behind-the-scenes interviews to tell the story of the Swedish band that performed together for only 10 years but remains one of the biggest-selling musical acts of all time.
Some seek thrills, some seek records, some push themselves to the edge of physical and mental endurance. But for most Idaho climbers, standing on the top of Idaho’s tallest mountains is reward enough. For *Idaho’s 12ers* (Sunday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m.), the Outdoor Idaho production crew spent time on all nine of the Gem State’s 12,000-foot peaks (and a few 11,000-footers) with 44 intrepid climbers of a variety of ages and experience levels—Idaho natives and newcomers, experts and novices, men and women.

In *Books, Boats and Embezzlers* (Sunday, Dec. 6, at 8:30 p.m.), our Idaho Experience team shares a collection of short stories drawn from Idaho’s rich and varied history: a publisher who maintains hands-on printing traditions; how Ernest Hemingway’s time in Idaho influenced him; the steamboats that thrived on Lake Pend Oreille at the turn of the 20th century; New Plymouth’s beginning as an irrigated utopia; an infamous Idaho criminal from a pioneer family; and drive-in theaters that keep movie-watching traditions alive.

The Western Front of World War I, Christmas 1914. Out of the violence comes a silence, then a song. A German soldier steps into No Man’s Land singing “Stille Nacht” (Silent Night). Thus begins an extraordinary (though fleeting) night of camaraderie, music and peace. The theatrical performance *All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914* (Sunday, Dec. 6, at 9:30 p.m.) recreates this remarkable true story, told in the words and songs of the men who lived it.

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**Preschool Development Grant**

The Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children (IAEYC) and the State Board of Education recently submitted a grant to the U.S. Department of Education to renew the Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five. Idaho Public Television is one of several partners in this $6 million grant. If successful, Idaho Public Television will collaborate with partners to expand the Idaho Ready to Learn campaign by creating public service announcements that promote quality early learning activities for families with young children. New and existing Ready to Learn PSAs will be translated into Spanish to serve a larger segment of the population. In addition, we plan to create a documentary that features the history and importance of early learning in Idaho. We will also explore the possibility of creating a family-friendly app to encourage engagement in fun early learning experiences.

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**In the Community**

During December, IdahoPTV’s education staff will be conducting a set of Family and Community Learning workshops with families from American Falls and Marsing. The goal of the workshops is to help parents feel more comfortable talking about STEM topics with their children.

These weekly workshops were designed by PBS KIDS and intended to be in-person. Due to the pandemic, we have decided to conduct them virtually and allow the families to participate asynchronously on a platform called Padlet. We are excited for the families to have a chance to connect with us and the other families in their communities through the website or app.

Each week families will be asked to do four things: watch a prerecorded video of one of our education specialists reading a book that goes along with the topic, cook a meal together using a recipe that we provide, complete a
STEM activity, and do a follow up survey. Supplies for all activities will be mailed to each family and we’ve partnered with local grocery stores to deliver the ingredients for the recipes. Families are asked to take photos and/or videos of these activities and post them on the Padlet. They are also encouraged to interact by commenting on each other’s posts. We are so excited for this new opportunity for families and hope to be able to bring Family and Community Learning Workshops to families across the state!

It’s time to start prepping those stories to submit to the PBS KIDS Writers Contest! The 27th annual contest opens in January and goes until the middle of March 2021.

Winners, awarded First, Second, and Third Place for each grade level (K-3) in each of Idaho’s 3 regions: northern, southwestern and southeastern, will receive prizes, including books, toys, and a $100 contribution to a 529 college savings account from our sponsor IDeal! Winners will also be celebrated during a virtual ceremony in May where they will be encouraged to read their stories for each other.

The 2020 winners along with the rules for entry to the 2021 contest can be found at https://www.idahoptv.org/writers/.

**PBS Virtual Event**

Join the cast and producers of “All Creatures Great and Small” Sunday, December 6, 1:00-3:30 p.m. MT/Noon-2:30 p.m. PT online via Zoom.

Get a sneak peek at the new Masterpiece series “All Creatures Great and Small,” followed by a live Q&A with the cast and producers.

James Herriot’s adventures as a veterinarian in 1930s Yorkshire get a glorious new adaptation in a seven-part series based on his beloved stories.

Exciting newcomer Nicholas Ralph will make his television debut as the iconic vet who became renowned for his inspiring humor, compassion and love of life. The 1970s adaptation, which aired on public broadcasting, was a favorite of millions of viewers.

Space is limited. Register at: https://bit.ly/MASTACGSDec6
Bill Manny
Being relatively new to documentary making, I had a vague inkling about what it took – but “vague inkling” doesn’t capture the chasm of my ignorance.

When you are a print writer, the story ends when you type that last period. But that’s when it begins in TV. Jay Krajic, the editor on our “Idaho’s 12ers” show, has to distill hundreds of hours of video, submitted photos from dozens of climbers, music, websites, Bruce’s narration, “natural sound” and other elements down to 56 minutes and 46 seconds of Outdoor Idaho essence.

I’m continually awed by the process and excited for Idaho Public TV viewers and Idaho outdoor lovers to see the final product Dec. 6.

Sauni Symonds
With a pandemic raging across our nation and the world, it’s comforting to focus on the past, when people looked to the future with certainty and determination. As Idaho celebrates the 100th anniversary of our state Capitol, the words of its architect, John Tourtellotte, are both nostalgic and inspirational: “If the people are well balanced in their ideals and understand... that the great white light of conscience must be allowed to shine and by its interior illumination make clear the path of duty... then this Capitol truly represents the commonwealth of Idaho.”

Dave Butler, editor extraordinaire, and I are working with the Idaho State Historical Society to create video elements to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Idaho Capitol building. The celebration will be mostly virtual. So far, we’ve cut seven video clips out of IdahoPTV’s hour-long documentary, “Capitol of Light,” which was put together about 10 years ago to commemorate the Capitol renovation project and grand re-opening. Each clip of “Capitol of Light turns 100” will give viewers a glimpse into the history of the Capitol and the people who helped to design and build it.

These clips will be aired across our network beginning in December and streamed on various outlets, including the Idaho State Historical Society’s website. The clips are just part of the celebration project that ISHS is working on. They plan a full exhibit at the statehouse and a dedicated web presence for the anniversary, too.

We are also working on a half-hour Idaho Experience, which will combine new interviews and footage with some old. It will tell the story of the Capitol, and why, after 100 years, it still stands as a monument to our hopes and desires to live in a free and accessible democracy. Pat Metzler will help me turn out the program, set to air in March of 2021.
Lauren Melink

Even though it’s not airing until May, I’ve been busy traveling around the state for the Outdoor Idaho “Women Who Hunt” show, trying to get all the fall hunting in before it ends. Along with videographer Jay Krajic and new part-timer, Dexter Sear, most recently I’ve been to Ashton for a pheasant hunt with an expert hunting dog trainer and to Hailey for an almost-successful elk hunt.

My hunting lingo has greatly increased over the past few months. Now I know exactly what it means to say, “Let’s glass the hillside and spot a deer to put a stalk on.”

Joan Cartan-Hansen

This is the time of year where the Science Trek crew have three or four shows in various stages of production. Our topic for December will be climates and climate change. The children in the picture are about to demonstrate how short wave light emanating from the Sun turns into heat waves when they enter the Earth’s atmosphere. Some waves escape, some do not. Increasing greenhouse gases trap more of those light waves inside the atmosphere cause the Earth to warm.

What better way to show how this scientific process occurs than with kids, a large blow up Sun and an Earth and pool noodles to keep everyone a safe distance apart? Many thanks for Jen Pierce at Boise State for her expertise on climate change and her collection of kids.

In January, we will be focusing on Fish and then in February, we’ll look at Earthquakes.

Just a bit of pride to end with...Science Trek had more than 100,000 views on PBS Learning Media in October. Wow!

Jenessa Carson

My contributions to the production team are less glamourous than most. I’m one of those behind-the-scenes types. You might see my profile – or more often the back of my head – appear periodically in one of those production control photos, either sitting at the teleprompting computer or at the CG doing what I affectionately refer to as “side-seat directing.” But for the most part, if I had to put a name to what I do, I would call myself a “media wrangler.”

If you’ve ever watched our local content on our website, on demand or on an over-the-top device like the PBS video app, then you’ve probably seen what I do.

As DecemberFest approaches I am starting to hunt down editors for their promos and teases, and track down Producers asking for descriptions of their shows. But my real work starts when theirs ends, which won’t be for a few more weeks.

So in the meantime, near the end of most months, I am quite busy on several fronts. Take, for example, all the steps for just one of our shows: Science Trek. I’m working with AI to finish up the newest episodes and get all the files where they need to go. This includes uploading to Media Manager – a.k.a. our video
portal -- which Stephanie Dickey will use to populate scietrek.org. I’m creating new resources on PBS LearningMedia. I’m uploading to Science Trek’s YouTube channel. And, finally, I’m sharing the files with Joan, who will promote on Science Trek’s Facebook page, and to Melissa Bingham, who will schedule them to run on our 24/7 Kids streaming channel. And that’s just for one show!

We are certainly not just a TV station anymore, and it really does take a village! I’m just happy I get to be a part of this one.

**Andy Lawless**

In 2018 Idaho Public Television had the good fortune to be awarded the American Graduate: Getting To Work grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. It’s an initiative to illuminate pathways to post-secondary education and career placement for 16 to 26 year olds around the state.

Through the grant we’ve been able to tell inspiring stories of students achieving career goals, to highlight enriching Career and Technical Education Programs from around the state, and to champion the value of apprenticeships for businesses seeking to expand their workforce and youth searching for an affordable career path.

Recently one of our partners, the Idaho Workforce Development Council, enlisted us to produce 360 degree virtual reality videos that provide insight into the requirements of high-demand career opportunities throughout the state. To kick off the series of videos that were commissioned, we decided to take a look at one of Idaho’s legacy industries: Idaho Forest Products.

In May of this year we had the good fortune to spend a day with Mark Mahon and his brother Joe on a reclamation site north of Council, to explore the rigors of a career in forestry. Mahon Logging had been assigned a site in the forest with a high percentage of waste timber; that means trees that would primarily be used in paper products. It’s a site that -- through good forest management -- could be restored by the thinning of dead and diseased timber.

We are currently in the editing phase of the project, which we plan to premiere in December. The 360 degree virtual reality video will play on YouTube and will be a completely immersive exploration of a forestry site, giving our viewers a taste of Idaho’s Forest Product Industry, one that employs 16,412 people and amounts to $1.247 billion dollars in labor income.

Virtual reality video isn’t entirely new to our production crew, but it is an area we are still learning a great deal about. The data required to tell a five minute story is equivalent to that of a half-hour episode of Idaho Experience! That’s because the video we shoot occupies a global view of the environment in which the camera is immersed.

**Patrick Daly**

I am a part-time videographer at IdahoPTV. I’m working on editing Classroom Idaho Learn @ Home, putting Idaho teachers’ lessons for Kindergarten through 6th graders on our Create Channel. We edit for time, content, and add Closed Captions for broadcast.

I do what I get asked to do, which includes shooting, editing and voice work. I’ve even moved an office chair or two.
Al Hagenlock
This is the time of year when life gets a little hectic, even for me! Here’s a rundown of my major assignments this month …

We recently had a successful Fall Sponsorship Preview event, where we invited current and potential funders to view what the station is doing. I taped the talent in the studio and then edited the video segments.

I edited Joan Cartan-Hansen’s Science Trek program on Climate, airing in early December.

I edited an hour and a half program called “Hymns of Thanksgiving.” This year, because of Covid, the program consists of sections from past shows between 2015 and 2018.

And then there’s the regular assignments, like working with our many sponsor underwriters, making sure our various channels have what they need, kicking out a handful of promos for our local and national shows, and of course “Ron’s Picks.”

It’s definitely a busy month for me, which is why I can often be found in the production control room or in Avid 4, with the door closed! But it’s not so busy that I can’t wish you all a happy and peaceful Thanksgiving.

Bruce Reichert
When you work on a show as long as some of us have, you get used to people riding off into the sunset. In fact, part of the reason you’re interviewing some of them is because they Are getting ready to check out … they’ve already done wonderful, meaningful work and you want to shine some light on them.

And then there are people who you assume will live forever, or at least as long as you do. It’s still hard to believe John Freemuth is no longer with us. John held the record for most appearances on Outdoor Idaho. He knew how to explain complex public policy issues in ways that ‘Joe Sixpack’ could appreciate, a phrase John loved to use.

What one expert might call a pureed nut spread with a grape relish reduction paired with brioche bun, John would call it what it was … a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

As a tribute to his help on our show, Peter Morrill and I decided to edit together his comments from the 14 programs in which he appeared. They stretched from 1991 to 2019. We did it as a gift for his wife and partner, Sheri Freemuth. Turns out the 20 minutes of video also made it into a BSU political science class organized by Emily Wakild. Peter and I tried to regale the online class with reminiscences of John in between his comments. Emily called it magical, but pretty sure she was referring to John talking about everything from the Forest Service and national monuments to the Bundys and mountain bikes in designated Wilderness.

John was, first and foremost, a gifted teacher. When I posted the 20 minute compilation on social media, his past students responded. “Best teacher I ever had” was a pretty typical comment on the Outdoor Idaho Facebook page.

John valued public lands. To him, it was the one thing that defined the West. That’s why he holds the record for most appearances. He never dissed public lands. But how it should be managed -- now that was a topic worth debating!
John was opinionated, especially as he got older. But we had our own nuclear proliferation treaty. We wouldn’t use his diatribes even while the camera was rolling. So he came to trust us. And for his part, he would keep me from saying too many stupid things about the intricacies of public lands policy.

We miss you, John. Pretty sure your record will stand for a long, long time.

**The Idaho Experience Team**

“Most of all, he loved the fall.” The Hemingway Memorial on Trail Creek near Ketchum is where visitors can get a sense of the influence the writer’s time in Idaho had on him. Watch the new Idaho Experience, “Books, Boats, and Embezzlers” on December 6 at 8:30 p.m.

Aside from Hemingway, the show features a book publisher who creates books with an old-time press; steamboats on Lake Pend Oreille; New Plymouth’s utopian beginnings; drive-in theaters; and an infamous Idaho criminal from a pioneer family. Many of these segments will eventually become full half-hour programs.

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**In the News**

![Local man’s steamboat story to air on TV next month](image)

**Local man’s steamboat story to air on TV next month**

By RACHEL SUN
Staff Writer | November 18, 2020 1:00 AM

SANDPOINT — When Madison Finlay first visited Sandpoint in the 1930s, he told his family, the lakes were full of steamboats.

“He said there were like 100 steamboats on this lake carrying groceries, lumber, mail, you know, people, around the lake,” said his daughter Maria Finlay Larson. “And then he came back in the ‘50s, and there was just a handful. And then he came back in the ‘60s and they were all gone.”

Many of the roles steamboats once filled were taken over by trains and cars said Forrest Burger, a producer at Idaho Public Television’s Outdoor Idaho series.

Burger, whose special on Madison’s story will air Dec. 6 as part of Idaho Public Television’s Idaho Experience series, became acquainted with the story years ago after Larson was interviewed for “Pend Oreille Country,” an episode of the Outdoor Idaho series that aired in 2019.
“About a year later they called me and one of the gals got in touch with me and said, ‘didn’t you have an idea for a story?’” Larson said. “By this time she was about ready to retire, but she passed it off [to Burger.]”

Even though the steamboats on Lake Pend Orielle had disappeared, they had entranced Madison, his daughter said. He had already bought land in the Sandpoint area, and in 1964 began building his own steamboat while still residing in Redlands, California.

“Madison was kind of a sailboat guy in California,” Burger said. “But [he] kind of got enamored by steamboats.”

The family moved to Sandpoint, and for the next several decades, the steamboat was Finlay’s project, Larson said.

“[It was] the main focus of my father’s last 50 — the last 50 years of his life was building this boat,” she said. “It’s called the Sunnyside Queen. Because his place was out on Sunnyside.”

The 35-foot-long, 7-ton steamboat was her father’s “epitaph,” she said. Her father — welder, machinist, and mechanic — was humble, she said, but his family knew how much work went into it.

“The last time he took it out was Aug. 5 of 2006, and he died in April of 2007, so it was his last voyage on it,” she said. “He just he worked on that just, you know, every summer. All summer long until he till he couldn’t anymore.”

After Finlay’s passing, Larson said, the steamboat began to fall into disrepair. That’s when the family met Matt Janssen — a local who just so happened to be a steam engine expert.

“I told them I’d fix the mechanical for a ride on the steamboat,” he said. “I had it runnable in a week.”

When he was 10 years old, Janssen said, he got to visit the SS Jeremiah O’Brien, a steam-powered ship built during World War II. That visit sparked his love of steam engines.

“I knew I wanted to work on something like that,” he said. “I guess I’m doing pretty well.”

Eventually, the family decided the upkeep was too much for them, so they decided to sell the Sunnyside Queen to Janssen — for $1.

“The Sunnyside Queen showed up, and I’ve tried to be a good custodian of it,” he said.

Burger said he’s thankful to have been able to air the story.

“I’m just glad I found a home for it,” he said. “Sometimes you research things and you take video, and it doesn’t work out.”

The episode schedule has not been finalized, Burger said, but the roughly 9-minute program will either air at 7:45 p.m. or 9:15 p.m. on Dec. 6. during the station’s annual pledge drive.