Quotes

“Please keep up the great programming. We don’t watch much else on TV anymore.” – John

“Thank you to Idaho Public TV for taking care of us really rural viewers!!!” – Carol

Celebrate Festival 2020 with Idaho Public Television! Enjoy a variety of music from rock to classical. See IdahoPTV specials. Watch an array of self-help programs, nature shows, behind-the-scenes journeys, and Idaho history.

Idaho Public Television continues its annual Festival on-air fundraising campaign beginning Friday, February 28. As part of the drive, we showcase a number of special productions. Outdoor Idaho presents an extraordinary look at the people and majesty of the Sawtooth Mountains in “Sawtooths on My Mind.” Idaho Experience presents a special episode called “Idaho’s Constitution Revealed.” This program examines the Idaho Constitution in its time and ours — and how its caretakers at the Idaho State Historical Society are working to ensure that the pages it is written on are preserved for future generations.

New music specials include Lionel Richie at Glastonbury and Jonathan Antoine in Concert: Going the Distance. We also have a new train program called Great Scenic Railway Journeys: 150 Years on the Right Track. More than just a tour, these stories capture railroads as they defined the spirit of America, creating a new industry and rewriting the history of transportation. It is an exciting Festival full of programs you won’t want to miss.

Idaho Public Television Presents at JFAC

Ron Pisaneschi made his FY2021 budget request to the Legislature’s Joint Finance – Appropriations Committee on Friday, January 24. In his presentation, he supported the Governor’s recommendation. Along with other state agencies, the FY’21 budget request includes a 2% General Fund budget reduction, though it does include a 2% pool of funds for raises for its employees. Overall including personnel, operating and capital, Idaho Public Television’s FY’21 budget request is a reduction of $651,100 or 19.6% in state funds from the current year. From all fund sources, it is a reduction of 8.6%. In his closing comments, Ron noted that, “As you can see our budget is significantly reduced from last year. Despite that, we are committed to providing high quality content and services to the people of Idaho no matter where they live. We appreciate the support this body has provided to our agency and hope we can count on it again this year.”
This year, the request does not include any new initiatives (called decision units), nor does it have any state General Funds funding for capital replacement items, which prompted a question from Senator Mark Nye of Pocatello. Senator Nye inquired what it means for IdahoPTV’s ability to keep its network of 50+ transmitters and translators operating. Ron explained that he thought they could get through next year OK, as long as nothing major failed, since there are still repair and maintenance funds in the operating budget, but with $24 million in equipment, the agency will need capital replacement funds to keep the system operating in the future. Also during the hearing, Representative Caroline Nilsson Troy of Genesee was very complimentary of the station’s Idaho in Session service and told a story of the exceptional customer service provided to her mother.

“I would just like to commend Idaho Public Television. We sometimes forget the families that legislators leave behind. And my parents religiously watch the Legislature Live. A couple of years ago when the House tried a new strategy of not showing our votes until after the vote was taken, my mother texted me and said, ‘Could they please leave the monitor shot up for a little bit longer because we can’t tell how you voted.’ So I called the Speaker’s assistant. We were live on the floor. The Speaker’s assistant called Idaho Public Television. Idaho Public Television changed how long they left the screen up. They called the Speaker’s assistant back and asked if it was long enough for my mother. The Speaker’s assistant texted me and asked me if it was long enough. I texted my mother. She said, ‘Could they please leave it up five more seconds?’ Idaho Public Television took care of that. And I think it’s a great example of how special Idaho Public Television is to our citizens and how quickly you respond to our requests. So I wanted to thank you for that. And on behalf of my parents, thank you as well.”

In the Community

Boise State University Engineering and Science Festival

On Saturday, February 1, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., IdahoPTV will participate in the Engineering & Science Festival by demonstrating a wave model STEM activity. This is a FREE event for all ages with a wide variety of engaging activities designed for K-12 students and their family. Learn more by visiting their website at coen.boisestate.edu/STEMExploration/.

Early Learning Educational Events Open to the Public

IdahoPTV’s early learning educational events are free and open to the public. Our education team presents story times, demonstrates literacy or STEM activities, and distributes take-home activities.

February 11 at 10:30 a.m., Madison Public Library in Rexburg, PreK story time and STEM program about ramps.

February 12 at 10:30 a.m., Madison Public Library in Rexburg, PreK story time and STEM program about ramps.

February 12 at 1:30 p.m., American Falls Public Library, Kids Club for a ramps and pulleys activity.
The Idaho Public Television PBS KIDS Writers Contest is here! The contest is open to children in grades Kindergarten to 3rd grade. All entries must be postmarked by Saturday, March 21, 2020. For information, check out the website: https://www.idahoptv.org/kids/writers/ or call 800-543-6868.

Sesame Street Resources Help Kids Affected by Parental Incarceration

According to the Idaho Legislature’s Office of Performance Evaluations, 70 percent of incarcerated women in Idaho have dependent children (Programs for Incarcerated Mothers, 2003). Idaho Public Television’s education team recently partnered with South Boise Women’s Correctional Center to offer weekly parenting workshops to incarcerated mothers. The program is small, serving 8-10 mothers at a time, and focuses on building healthy relationships between mother and child(ren). The women participate in one workshop each week for eight weeks while also working toward applying skills learned during weekly visitation with their children. Workshops with the mothers, as well as family activities, are based on Sesame Street’s Brave, Strong, Resilient curriculum. The main focus of this curriculum is building resilience in all kids, but especially those impacted by trauma. Sesame Street in Communities offers resources for families impacted by incarceration, parental addiction, homelessness, and many other situations. These resources are invaluable when developing parenting skills and fostering a healthy relationship between inmates and their children. IdahoPTV has plans to expand this program to other prisons under the Idaho Department of Correction in order to reach more families. If you are interested in viewing the Brave, Strong, Resilient curriculum, you can find it at: www.sesamestreetincommunities.org/training/brave-strong-resilient.

Our IdahoPTV Productions

What We’re Working On

“Sawtooths on My Mind”

What do the Sawtooth Mountains in central Idaho mean to us? We explore this question with those who visit, and with those who live and work there. We actually get deep into the Sawtooth Wilderness, so you know the video will be top notch. And we examine some of the challenges facing Idaho’s most popular mountain range. The show is scheduled to air March 5. It will be an hour in length.
“Trailblazers”

Long gone are the days of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the army of laborers shipped around the country during the Great Depression as our nation’s work relief program. The government paid them to build trails, parks and recreation areas; and we still use them today. But public lands trails need to be maintained, or they will disappear. And some of the trails are doing just that. Luckily, Idahoans are filling the gap... for free. They are this century’s CCC. We call them Trailblazers. The show is scheduled to air May 14.

“Urban Wildlife”

It’s no surprise that humans have taken the best land, even if it’s where wildlife used to live in the winter. No wonder wildlife prefer our neighborhoods in certain times of the year. That’s not always a good thing – for them or for us. We’ve asked our Facebook friends to send us video of the inevitable interactions with deer and elk, cougars and wolves, geese, ducks, skunks, etc. And we’re out getting interviews ourselves, talking to wildlife experts and neighbors just minding their own business when a moose falls through their basement window or a mountain lion captures an elk on their patio. The show is scheduled to air July 16.

“Barns of Idaho”

Who doesn’t love a barn! And Idaho has lots of ‘em. Most are in some degree of decay. Others are being renovated in some pretty interesting ways. And some barns have always been in service to farmers and ranchers throughout the state. The show is scheduled to air in October, the first show of our 38th season!

“Hunting Idaho”

We’ll try to capture the essence of the hunt and what it means in the 21st century. Idaho has a long and storied tradition of taking big game, like elk and deer in the spirit of fair play. In fact, some call hunting a sacred act, while others question its nobility and value. We’ll explore the role of Fish & Game in hunting; how social media is affecting the divide between those who hunt and those who don’t; what wolves have meant to the hunting experience; and much more. The show is scheduled to air in November.

“Idaho’s 12ers”

There are people who love to climb mountains, particularly ones that are more than 12,000 feet high. In fact, there are now trails to the top of some of Idaho’s 12ers that didn’t exist even a few years ago. Most of Idaho’s nine 12,000 foot peaks are in the Lost River Range; Borah Peak is the leader of the pack, at 12,662’. We’ll meet some of the people engaged in this sport, including kids as young as six and nine, who have climbed them all! Yikes! The show is scheduled to air in early December. It will be an hour in length.
“Measurement”

In new video shorts, host Joan Cartan-Hansen explores how measurement helps compare distance, temperature, mass and weight – and why other countries use the metric system. Each month, Science Trek explores a subject with digital shorts available on the website (https://sciencetrek.org), on YouTube, and on PBS Learning Media. The Science Trek website has facts, games, links, and lesson plans correlated to Idaho and national science standards.