April 2024

Quotes

“Thank you for the wonderful programming that is provided on a day-to-day basis!”
– Mike and Jean

“Outdoor Idaho gives me new places to put my feet.” – Chris and Kara

Presentations in Eastern Idaho

The Pocatello and Idaho Falls members of the Friends of Idaho Public Television recently organized a few presentations for us in the area. What a fun and busy three days!

We presented at the Centennial Rotary Club and Bannock Civitan Club in Pocatello. We answered a lot of questions about the great work our IdahoPTV Education staff does in our communities every day.

Dr. Shane Hunt, Dean of the ISU School of Business and a Friends Board Director, also had me present to his class of finance, management, accounting, economic and marketing students. I can’t tell you how impressed I was at the quality of the students and the great questions they asked. I just hope I gave them good answers!

If you would like someone from IdahoPTV present to your community group, please give us a call. We love to travel around this great state.

In the Community

Ensuring Idaho Kids Are Ready for Kindergarten

Idaho teachers and parents have shared with us the challenges of ensuring young learners have developed the essential skills needed in order to start kindergarten.

To fulfill this critical need, former Idaho classroom teachers and early childhood educators on Idaho Public Television’s Education team carefully curate and assemble robust Kindergarten Readiness Kits, which we deliver for free to high-needs schools in Idaho in coordination with schools’ kindergarten registration each spring.
The kits align with the school readiness checklist adopted by the Idaho State Board of Education, which includes specifics on early literacy, language, mathematical and scientific thinking, as well as social and emotional development, physical development, and safety skills.

“As a former kindergarten teacher, I’ve witnessed the transformative power of school preparation,” says Ashley Marotz, education specialist with Idaho Public Television. “Free Kindergarten Readiness Kits would have been invaluable in my time teaching, fostering a smoother transition for both educators and young minds. These kits serve as an essential tool for kindergarten preparation.”

In March, volunteers from IdahoPTV, IDeal - Idaho College Savings Program, and Blue Cross of Idaho gathered to assemble 1,000 kits, funded in part by the Micki and Dan Chapin Fund in the Idaho Community Foundation. The Idaho Community Foundation funded kits for eastern Idaho communities.

Schools seeking Kindergarten Readiness Kits should contact IdahoPTV’s education manager, Kari Wardle, at kari.wardle@idahoptv.org or (208) 373-7220.

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**Our IdahoPTV Productions**

**“Rabbits”**

Rabbits are the third most popular pet in the world, but is a rabbit the right pet for you? In this month’s videos from Science Trek, find out more about these amazing creatures, the adaptations that help them survive, and what it takes to be a good rabbit owner.

Each month, Science Trek explores subjects with short videos available on the website (sciencetrek.org), YouTube, and PBS LearningMedia. The website has facts, games and lesson plans correlated to Idaho and national science standards. Look for Science Trek: The Podcast with hosts Evie and Garrett wherever you find your podcasts!

**Links to IdahoPTV’s Recent Local Productions**

“Nature as Classroom”

“Idaho’s Hidden Gems”

“The createid Collection”
In the News

Anti-vaping video contest for teens
Winner gets $2000 and helps educate others about the dangers of vaping

By: Roland Beres Posted at 7:59 AM, Mar 28, 2024

BOISE, Idaho — Idaho Public TV is using a grant from the Millenium Fund to create an anti-vape video contest for teens. The deadline to enter is April 15. The idea is to create a message from teens to teens urging them to never try vape.

- An estimated one in five Idaho students vape, with some starting as early as elementary school.
- Vaping is not included in the state’s tobacco settlement, so sales of vape do not add to tobacco companies’ penalties.
- Vape comes in thousands of flavors many of which target youth.
- Disposable vapes can be purchased for as little as $5 and provide thousands of puffs per unit.
- The nicotine levels in many vape products are considered extreme by many health professionals and heighten addiction.
- Health Department officials say many vape users eventually return to use cigarettes.

(Below is the transcript from the broadcast story)

The shadowy world of vape is slowly coming into focus. What once was thought of as a possibly less harmful way to wean off cigarettes, is now seen as a full on threat to a new generation.

“You can talk to any pulmonologist any respiratory therapist and they’ll tell you they’re having kids come in with cases of EVALI — which is e-cigarette vaping associated lung injury. And basically what that does is prevents them from being able to expand and contract their lungs,” said Kati Chauvin, health policy analyst at Central District Health.

And Central Health says that’s just the tip of the iceberg.

Vape is hugely addictive and many of the chemicals it contains are known carcinogens. So when the Millennium Fund, which gets its money from the tobacco settlement came to Idaho Public TV to educate the public, Jennie Sue Weltner was fully on board.

“I had no idea and until I got the project what was going on and then I became really angry, and that is really motivating to me. Especially when you combine kids with the predatory practices of the vaping companies is shameful and people need to be aware of what they’re doing,” said Weltner.

Besides creating a documentary, IPTV also created a contest for kids to create anti-vape videos.

“There’s nothing more powerful than peer to peer communication,” said Weltner.

The $2000 in prize money got Eli Richey to get creative... and he won.
“I just had the idea to do a rap song about vaping, make a music video for that and then it all came together,” said Richey.

Weltner says just getting kids involved makes a difference.

“It encourages kids to research the truth about vaping and understand the lies that they’ve been told,” she said.

The latest contest has been extended to April 15th. The rules are available at Idahoptv.org and you don’t have to Stephen Spielberg to win.

“It’s the concepts we’re looking for primarily. Sometimes it’s a just a simple concept that we go oh my gosh that’s how you talk to kids about vaping, so we encourage kids to turn in what they have for a chance to not only win money, but also to make a difference,” said Weltner.