December 2023

2D Barcode

Past GM Reports

Inside this issue:

• DecemberFest, Page 1
• New Board Directors and Leadership, Page 1
• In the Community, Page 2
• Our IdahoPTV Productions, Page 3

Celebrate DecemberFest

It’s that time of year again - tune in December 1-3 for DecemberFest! Filled with holiday specials and new episodes of local programming, it’s our way of saying ‘thank you’ for your support of Idaho Public Television. Programming includes Nutcracker and the Mouse King, Journey to Highclere Castle with the Sicilian Tenors, The Lawrence Welk Holiday Special: Great Moments and Memories, Outdoor Idaho “Joy Ride: Bicycling in Idaho,” and Idaho Experience “Idaho’s Nuclear Navy.”

New Board Directors and Leadership

Idaho Public Television is a complicated organization. It’s a state agency and we live under the Idaho State Board of Education. These board members have all been greatly supportive of our efforts to educate, entertain and inspire our viewers. But it doesn’t end there. We also have an advisory board called the Friends of Idaho Public Television, a nonprofit whose sole mission is to support the agency and encourage the solicitation and acceptance of philanthropic gifts to IdahoPTV. The funds go directly to local productions, program acquisition, and educational services. This is a diverse group of individuals from around the state who bring additional connection to our communities and knowledge to our organization.

Each August, the board elects new corporate officers and brings on new directors. This year, Amy Lientz from Idaho Falls serves as president, Randy Morgan serves as first vice president, Jenny Emery Davidson serves as second vice president, Brad Rasor continues to serve as treasurer, and Sharon Price serves as secretary. The rest of the list of board directors is just as impressive; you can find them all listed inside the cover of Channels.
The board also elected three new board directors. Garrett Kitamura is an attorney from Boise and impressed everyone with his deep knowledge of public television. He is a superuser of sorts and he wears the brand with honor. Chelsea Porter is also an attorney from Boise, and besides her law degree from Gonzaga, she has a B.A. in communication. And finally, a name many of you may already know: former representative and co-chair for the legislature’s finance and appropriations committee, Maxine Bell from Jerome, has graciously joined our board. Aside from having a deep understanding of the legislature, she has an equally deep understanding of IdahoPTV and what it does for communities around the state.

We are so lucky to have these new board directors as well as all of our returning directors to help advise staff and help connect with viewers and donors in their areas.

In the Community

Caldwell High School Students at Idaho Public Television

IdahoPTV hosted more than 30 students from Canyon Springs High School in Caldwell, led by media teacher Chad Lawson, at the station in Boise in October and early November.

Production manager Aaron Kunz and producer Mya Long showed students around our production department and taught them about cameras, lighting, and the process of shooting and editing video.

We look forward to mentoring students in the classroom and sharing their work online as part of the PBS NewsHour Student Reporting Labs program.

We encourage Idaho junior and high school teachers to use the free Student Reporting Labs curriculum, join the Youth Media Challenges, and incorporate the brand-new NOVA Science Studio science journalism curriculum into their classrooms.

We are here to provide resources and help! Contact us for more information.

Education

Creating a ‘Learning Neighborhood’ in Potlatch

Our early childhood educational outreach work in North Idaho continues with the announcement that the CPB-PBS Ready to Learn Initiative, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, has awarded Idaho Public Television’s education department funds to create an innovative model of community engagement called a “Learning Neighborhood” in Potlatch.
The primary goals of our work in Potlatch and the surrounding area are to provide enriching educational opportunities to local families through community partnerships that honor their cultures and address their needs as well as to create a sustainable and replicable model for continued engagement and support in the community.

“Our work in the Potlatch area will bring early childhood resources to an age group that is perhaps the most isolated in that region,” says education specialist Lenea Pierzchanowski, who will oversee the project.

The Potlatch Learning Neighborhood, she says, “will focus on developing skills and knowledge surrounding the world of work, functional literacy, critical thinking, and collaboration” for young learners.

In 2022, IdahoPTV Education received an initial planning grant from the Ready to Learn Initiative, which we used to conduct an asset-and-needs assessment in several North Idaho communities to determine greatest need and potential impact.

This second round of funding will help IdahoPTV Education empower and equip parents, caregivers and communities with the tools needed to support children’s learning and growth, as well as conduct efficacy research on the newly produced educational resources.

Kari Wardle, IdahoPTV education manager, says, “We look forward to working with the community in Potlatch and finding ways to support early learning.”

Our IdahoPTV Productions

“Idaho’s Nuclear Navy”
—Airs Sunday, December 3, at 6 p.m.

In the early 1950s, the U.S. Navy under the leadership of Admiral Hyman Rickover was hard at work developing a nuclear-powered engine to drive submarines and aircraft carriers. His efforts resulted in the creation of the Naval Reactors Facility outside Idaho Falls. NRF was also a training ground for nearly 40,000 sailors over the decades and is the only place in the country that processes spent nuclear fuel. Idaho Experience, working with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, tells the story of Idaho’s part in creating the U.S. Nuclear Navy.

“Joy Ride: Bicycling in Idaho”
—Airs Sunday, December 3, at 7 p.m

There’s more to biking than just rolling on two wheels; there’s a joy that comes from being free to explore, unencumbered by windshields and metal. Idahoans are using bicycles to get to beautiful places, from backcountry hunting to rural commutes, from hot springs to secret camping spots. Using a human-powered bicycle to get from one breathtaking view to the next is just another way Idahoans are accessing and appreciating our unique landscape. This program highlights the folks using bicycles to explore the Gem State.
Conversations From the Sun Valley Writers’ Conference is back for a 16th season! The series, which airs every Friday in December at 8:30 p.m., features interviews with five bestselling authors, including two Pulitzer Prize winners.

“Each of these incredibly talented writers has their unique take on the world and our place in it,” says producer and host Marcia Franklin. “I really enjoy sharing their insights with viewers.”

On December 1, Franklin talks with Dr. Abraham Verghese about his latest blockbuster novel, “The Covenant of Water.” The epic, which includes a mystery at its core, covers more than 70 years in the intertwined lives of families in the Indian state of Kerala. Verghese discusses the ties the story has to his own family history and shares his joy of writing.

Hernan Diaz joins Franklin on December 8 to discuss his latest novel, “Trust,” which won the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. The intricately braided tale about characters in the world of high finance gives readers four different takes on the same story, playing with the idea of truth. Diaz explains why he constructed the novel using multiple voices, and what it was like to win the Pulitzer Prize.

On December 15, David Grann regales viewers with some of the amazing true stories surrounding the wreck of The Wager, a British ship that sank off the tip of South America in 1741. In his book “The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder,” Grann uses rare primary source documents to reconstruct the harrowing experiences of the ship’s castaways and shows how the aftermath of the saga is still relevant today. The book will be adapted into a film directed by Martin Scorsese, as was another of Grann’s bestsellers, “Killers of the Flower Moon.”

Journalist Andrea Elliott is the guest on December 22. Elliott won the 2022 Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction for her book, “Invisible Child,” which chronicles eight years in the life of Dasani Coates, a child in Brooklyn. Elliott shares what compelled her to spend that much time covering the story, and how Dasani’s life exemplifies the challenges of being poor in America. Elliott also discusses some of the ethical considerations involved in reporting this complex and personal story.

A conversation with writer Mohsin Hamid about his latest novel, “The Last White Man,” concludes the series on December 29. The story follows the transformation of a man who wakes up one day to find that his skin color has changed. Hamid, who often incorporates his own multicultural background into his work, talks with Franklin about how his life changed after the terrorist attacks of 9/11, and how he aims with his writing to “imagine the world into a better place.”

SARA. A Life in Dreams and Symbols - A createid Special
—Airs Sunday, December 3, at 5 p.m.

This documentary illuminates the life and work of Sara Joyce (1923–2011), an artist who lived in Pocatello and Genesee. Known simply as “Sara,” she was accomplished in many mediums, including ceramics, fiber arts, and painting. An avid student of Jungian psychology, Sara drew inspiration from her dream life for much of her art. This is the first broadcast look at her work.
“When I first saw Sara’s art, I was really moved by it, and also surprised she wasn’t better known,” says producer Marcia Franklin. “I’m excited to share her talents and creativity with viewers.”

“One of the things I love about her work is that she was doing it for art’s sake,” says director Andy Lawless. “It wasn’t to reach a broad audience but to reach within herself as a way of expressing and understanding her place in the world.”

“Oceans”

Oceans are salty bodies of water that cover 70% of Earth. They are home to some of the planet’s largest and smallest creatures. In this month’s Science Trek videos, learn how Earth’s weather depends upon oceans, how much of our food comes from the ocean, and why the ocean’s kelp forests are a vital but endangered habitat.

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!