Quote

“Thanks so much for bringing us great programming. We appreciate the hard work you do to provide us with local programs such as Idaho Experience and Outdoor Idaho.”
– Stephen and Debra

Summer of Learning Continues Through August 20

Idaho Public Television’s Summer of Learning initiative continues weekdays, through August 20. It is free via an over the air antenna and available on many cable channels. From Camp TV to Let’s Learn, DIY Science time to Classroom Idaho; these educational programs will keep your kids engaged and help prevent the summer slide. Learn more at Idahoptv.org/ClassroomIdaho.

Congressional Record – Tribute to Ron Pisaneschi

On Wednesday, July 28, 2021, Bob Sonnichsen, state director for Senator Mike Crapo, presented Ron Pisaneschi with a tribute that was signed by Idaho’s congressional delegation and entered into the congressional record.

It reads:
Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, along with my colleagues Senator Jim Risch and Representatives Mike Simpson and Russ Fulcher, I congratulate Ron Pisaneschi on his remarkable more than 35-year career with Idaho Public Television.

Ron is retiring after serving as Idaho Public Television’s general manager since August 2013. He joined Idaho Public Television in 1985 and served in numerous positions for the station prior to his managerial role. This includes serving as director of content, director of
programming, director of public information, and director of marketing and development. We understand under his leadership of the station, Idaho Public Television has been one of the most watched and best supported Public Broadcasting Service, PBS, stations per capita in the Nation. Douglas Balfour, president of the Friends of Idaho Public Television, wrote, ``With his leadership, IdahoPTV has focused on the wonderful people and places we have in the Gem State, with local productions like Idaho Reports, Outdoor Idaho and Idaho Experience. Ron will be missed, but we will carry on in the tradition he established."

Ron has also contributed extensively of his time and talents to serving in various roles throughout the community, State, and Nation. This includes his service as vice chair of the NETA board of directors, chair of the Idaho State Broadcasters Association, and member of the board of directors of American Public Television. Ron dedicated more than 25 years to serving on the PBS Children’s Advisory Committee. He also served on the board of directors of the Public Television Programming Association from 2002-2007, serving as president in 2006. From 2002-2012, he served on the board of directors of the Idaho Humanities Council, where he served two terms as chairman. These are just a few examples of his longtime involvement in numerous leadership roles and advisory panels. His dedicated work has earned recognition, including Ron being named the 2005 Programmer of the Year by his colleagues in the PBS system.

Ron, thank you for your commitment to advancing public discussions in Idaho for all these years. Your curiosity, ingenuity, and thoughtful advocacy for Idaho interests have no doubt contributed significantly to broadening understanding, educational opportunities, and public discourse across Idaho and well beyond our State’s borders. We will miss you at the helm of Idaho Public Television but wish you all the best in a well-earned retirement.

### July Iconic Idaho Photo Contest

Congrats to our July winners: Doug Havens, Brandon Hoxie, Than Widner, Shari Hart, William Bunting, Matthew Fox, and Nette Shaff.

And thanks to this month’s judges: Jeevan Jalli, Royal Kennard, Link Jackson, Sandy Lindberg, Kirk Geisler, Dave Dahms, and Dawn Best.

Check out the winners and the honorable mentions at: [https://www.facebook.com/outdoor.idaho/](https://www.facebook.com/outdoor.idaho/)
In the Community

Upcoming Events

Professional Development Series for Teachers

Idaho Public Television is excited to partner with Idaho Children’s Trust Fund and Optum Idaho to bring teachers, counselors and other practitioners a three-part virtual professional development series centered around our documentary Resilience: Hope Lives Here.

The hourlong film investigates Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), which include abuse, neglect, divorce and other childhood traumas. Research shows that left unresolved or untreated, these experiences can lead to health conditions in adulthood such as high blood pressure, diabetes and depression. Being a trauma-informed teacher or practitioner is critical because Idaho has the fifth-highest rate in the nation for children who have experienced three or more ACEs.

The first webinar in the series will focus on self-care and mental wellness, and will be held online via Zoom on Thursday, August 19, from 5 – 7 p.m. Mountain time (4 – 6 p.m. Pacific time). Dr. Julie Wood and Dr. Dennis Woody from Optum Idaho will be our guest speakers.

In the second webinar, attendees will learn about trauma-informed classrooms. This webinar takes place virtually via Zoom on Thursday, September 16, from 5 – 7 p.m. Mountain time (4 – 6 p.m. Pacific time).

The third webinar will feature some hands-on, practical applications and ideas for managing trauma in the classroom. This final webinar will be held online via Zoom on Thursday, October 21, from 5 – 7 p.m. Mountain time (4 – 6 p.m. Pacific time).

All of the webinars will be available to teachers and practitioners at no cost and will be available for one professional development credit through Idaho State University. Please join us as we learn how to conquer ACEs and be more trauma-informed! Register for these free webinars on our website at https://idahoptv.org/resilience.

Education Events for Kids

Fun STEM and literacy activities help kids learn all summer long!

IdahoPTV’s education staff will be participating in the following events:

- **American Falls Days** on August 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event takes place at the American Falls City Park (543 Bannock Ave.). We’re expecting about 1,000 people and will be handing out make and take kits for a 2-wheel balloon car.

- **Celebration of the Young Child** on August 8. The event takes place at the Idaho Botanical Garden in Boise from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. We’re expecting between 1,000 – 2,000 children.
In August’s video shorts, host Joan Cartan-Hansen shows how to keep teeth healthy and talks with physiologists about how bones and muscles work together.


Outdoor Idaho begins its 39th season with a comprehensive look at Congressman Mike Simpson’s Salmon Proposal, involving the breaching of the four lower Snake River dams. Producers Forrest Burger and Aaron Kunz have spent many days this summer in northern Idaho, as well as Washington and Oregon, in 114 degree heat, interviewing people on all sides of this controversial issue. And I’ve interviewed several people, including retired Fish & Game director Virgil Moore. The three of us will head into the edit bay with director/editor Pat Metzler later this fall. “Salmon Reckoning” airs October 13.

Here’s something that Forrest put together that will give you a sense of what is being proposed by Mike Simpson. You’re the first to see this:  
https://vimeo.com/578613571/d2149756a2
Melissa Davlin informs us that Idaho Reports has launched a new newsletter that provides a weekly roundup of reporting from the Idaho Reports team. Here’s the link to subscribe!

https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001R7EztVuwXkBKupTNo1eCHIbxt6vCxmE6XVzIKAFyfalk2dptRlBo-DeRai6G1vTAugjnjTzVH-ulbjthqFapwXoR5yRcEaPGXrg5sx73kGW7KoTx-h11akpqF1aN0m57Qdmy7qy0%3D

She wants to thank her colleagues Ruth Brown, Troy Shreve, Morgan McCollum, and Logan Finney for their fine work this past session.

The Dialogue team just returned from its 14th year of taping “Conversations at the Sun Valley Writers’ Conference.” Marcia Franklin interviewed some very insightful authors, including Sarah Broom, whose memoir, “The Yellow House,” won the National Book Award in 2019; Susan Orlean, the longtime New Yorker writer who penned “The Orchid Thief;” and Daniel James Brown, the author of the bestselling book, “The Boys in the Boat.” Brown has a new work that documents the heroism of the Japanese Americans who served in the 442nd Infantry Regiment during WWII.

The crew, which included Troy Shreve, Morgan McCollum, Logan Finney, Andy Lawless and Hank Nystrom, did a masterful job setting up and recording the interviews, which will air in late fall. Board member Norma Douglas kindly hosted Marcia during her stay.

“And my gratitude to the organizers of the conference for inviting us back during what has been a stressful time,” says Marcia. “The event was on hiatus for a year due to the pandemic, and was smaller this year in order to follow safety protocols. I appreciate them trusting us to do our jobs safely, and for allowing me to spend time with their insightful speakers.”

Things are super busy in the Idaho Experience universe this summer, with at least four shows in the works. Eric Westrom and Bill Manny are editing the September show “Idaho Utopia: The New Plymouth Colony” on that town’s 1890s utopian roots.

Troy Shreve, Ruth Brown and Bill Manny are chipping away at interviews for the October Idaho Experience, tentatively titled “Nothing But the Truth,” that looks at Diamondfield Jack, Charles Fain and the lawyers who overturned their wrongful convictions in two murder cases a century apart.
Science Trek is about to start its 24th season with a look at dams. We were out shooting last week and our extern Lynnea had her first chance to be a “boom operator.” To celebrate the beginning of the new season, we are also starting a new project in conjunction with the Idaho State Parks Department. We are working with five parks across Idaho to put Science Trek goodies into geocaching sites. In September, we will release our newest 360° immersive video on geocaching and satellites and encourage families to visit these state parks to look for the hidden Science Trek treasures.

(Photo by Nicole Sanchez.)

The Outdoor Idaho crew is busy shooting for several shows this summer. Lauren Melink and Jay Krajic have been spending lots of time in eastern Idaho riding in crop dusters and tractors, getting plenty of potato video for the December show, “Spud Country.” Producer Lauren Melink said, “It’s pretty amazing just how many components there are to the potato industry; every time I think we’ve covered it all, something new pops up.”

Lauren and Jay also bicycled and shot video of the Hiawatha Trail in Wallace, Idaho, and spent a week getting gorgeous video of the Selway River for a show about Idaho’s Bitterroot Mountains. Jay outdid himself shooting video – finally falling sleep in the river with a Go-Pro in hand. As far as upcoming shoots, smoke from wildfires in north central Idaho deterred a trip with motorcyclists down the Magruder Corridor; but upcoming shoots include potato processing, chips and vodka – as well as a few shoots for the March show, “Changing of the Guard.”

Some of us have begun working on something that could, frankly, be either an Outdoor Idaho or an Idaho Experience show. We’re tentatively calling it “Another Roadside Attraction.” The idea is that there are lots of quirky, fascinating stop-off points along Idaho’s thoroughfares. We’ve already shot footage of Mammoth Cave, Bear World, and things related to potatoes. We had planned to hit a favorite stop-off point for rafters along the Salmon River – Campbell’s Ferry – but the Dixie fire chased us away. We’ll give it another try real soon.

But we did get footage of a roadside attraction actually disappearing ... the 300 year old, five foot diameter “Ribbon Tree,” along Highway 21. Boise County residents used to put ribbons around the monster ponderosa, to honor a fallen hero, a death in the family, a wedding. It had quite a reputation for a 14 foot circumference bull pine. But, alas, it had died, and so it had to go. Too close to the highway. The Idaho City Historical Foundation received the wood and is using part of it for a memorial to the tree and to Manetta Schrite, who started the ribbon tradition many years ago. The ancient 167 foot tree will get memorialized in our exploration of roadside attractions.
Ligertown. It was a real thing. And ligers were Napoleon Dynamite’s “pretty much favorite animal. It’s like a lion and a tiger mixed, but for its skills and magic.”

Aaron Kunz has begun researching an Idaho Experience story that some of you may recall. Ligertown made the national news in 1995 when school children were kept indoors as officials killed 15 African lions that escaped from a rickety compound in Lava Hot Springs. The half-hour program will air sometime in 2022. And if Facebook is any indication, there’s a lot of interest in this one. Apparently, if you can believe Fb, 47,000 “people reached” in just a few days. Of course, it could have been this photo that did it.

(The ramshackle Ligertown with a lion on top. Photo by the Idaho Falls Post Register.)

Marcia, along with videographers Troy Shreve, Dave Butler and Jay Krajic, covered some of the exciting National Para Cycling Road Races for a future Outdoor Idaho program on athletes with disabilities. The piece they were filming focuses on Boisean Ellie Kennedy, a 64-year-old military veteran who suffered brain damage from her service during the Gulf War. Ellie is an accomplished “trike” racer, using a bike with three wheels to help with her balance. Marcia also interviewed Paralympian handcyclist Will Groulx, who has just moved to Boise. Watch for him to make his mark at the Tokyo Paralympics!

(Troy Shreve filming Ellie Kennedy for a show on athletes with disabilities. Photo by Marcia Franklin.)

And congrats to my colleagues – and there are many of them – for bringing home regional Emmys for two recent Outdoor Idaho programs – “Idaho’s 12ers” and “Sawtooths on My Mind.” Congrats to Jay Krajic, Bill Manny, Lauren Melink, and all the others who continue to make Idaho Public TV proud.

And thanks to Ron Pisaneschi for his many years of service to IdahoPTV. His dedication to locally grown shows has been lauded by national PBS leaders; it’s been appreciated by Idaho’s citizens; and those of us in the producing part of public television have always benefited from his wise counsel. We all wish you the best in your new adventures, Ron!

Oh, yeah, I announced to the staff the other day that I’m going to be cutting back later this year, and going part time. As one of my colleagues opined, “So what else is new?” Luckily, he was on a Zoom call, so I couldn’t throw something at him. But I do hope to continue my work with Outdoor Idaho into the indefinite future. Bruce

(Jay Krajic nearing the 12,000’ level in the Lost River Range. Photo by Bill Manny.)