Quotes

“Luckily, I finally got my “Passport”. Got rid of my TV almost 3 years ago. Can now watch “streaming”. Watched episodes 1 and 2 last night. Wonderful! But that’s normal for PBS!” – Gaby

“You could spend a lifetime exploring this amazing state and still not see all of the beauty we have here❤️. I’m so thankful to this page for giving me glimpses of places to go explore that Otherwise might not have known about.” – Chad

Parent Engagement in Schools Grant

IdahoPTV is excited to be a recipient of a two-year Parent Engagement in Schools grant from PBS. This grant will help us work with the Marsing School District and American Falls School District to develop quality preschool programs that will meet the needs of early learners while engaging parents in their child’s education. Monthly family engagement activities are planned with each district. These activities will be led using parts of PBS’s Ready to Learn curriculum, as well as other resources from PBS Learning Media. We will focus on showing parents the fun and inexpensive ways they can engage their children in learning activities to promote higher success rates for children entering school.

We will also work with the Women and Children’s Alliance to offer monthly STEM activities in their local shelters. Many of the goals are the same as the school districts but with a focus on women and children who are currently living in trauma. These activities are meant as a time for families to come together in a safe, stress-free environment and engage in learning activities that will set them up for success.

Finally, we are in the process of aligning Sesame Street’s Brave, Strong, Resilient curriculum with other PBS resources to work with Idaho Department of Correction. We will begin with South Boise Women’s Correctional Center and will offer an 8-week parenting seminar for inmates who have children. The parenting seminar will take place twice each week. The first workshop of the week will be just for the inmates where we will have the time to walk through activities and brainstorm concerns or struggles they may have. The second workshop of the week will be for the inmates and children to come together to participate in activities focused on social/emotional learning and coping skills.
In the Community

Join Us October 5 for a Preview Screening of the Independent Lens Documentary “Made in Boise.”

Idaho Public Television invites you to attend a preview screening of the Independent Lens documentary “Made in Boise” on Saturday, October 5, at the Egyptian Theatre in Boise. The event is free, but seating is limited; please register at www.idahoptv.org.

A surprising and booming industry has emerged in Boise, Idaho. In this idyllic, all-American city, nurses, nail technicians, and stay-at-home mothers are having babies for strangers—in record numbers. Boise’s own St. Luke’s Medical Center founded and runs the first and best surrogacy program of its kind, in all the US. But everything is not as it appears, surrogacy is not without its health risks, and the practice is not without its emotional complications. Character-driven and stylized in its approach, “Made In Boise” introduces audiences to the unique world of surrogacy in the most unexpected place.

PreK – 3rd Grade Educators, Join Idaho Public Television for a PBS KIDS Edcamp

PBS KIDS Edcamp is NOT a traditional conference; no keynote speaker, pre-arranged content or registration fee. So what exactly is it?

A PBS KIDS Edcamp is a local gathering of PreK-3 grade educators connecting through shared experiences and peer-led conversations with a PBS twist! An idea conceived by teachers eager to challenge the status quo and take control of their own professional learning, the Edcamp model was initially sparked by informal conversations between educators on social media.
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.

October 2
Library Storytime at Buhl Public Library at 10 a.m.
Library Storytime at Glenns Ferry Public Library at 1 p.m.
STEM Event “STEAM Tykes” at Mountain Home Public Library at 3:15 p.m.

October 3
STEM Event “Calling All Kids” at Kuna Public Library from 3 – 5 p.m.

October 8
Library Storytime at Madison District Library in Rexburg at 10:30 a.m.

October 9
Library Storytime at Madison District Library in Rexburg at 10:30 a.m.
STEM Event “Kids’ Club” at American Falls Public Library at 1:30 p.m.

Our IdahoPTV Productions

“Living With Wildfire”
– Airs Thursday, October 24, at 8 p.m.

Wildfires have been a way of life in Idaho for millennia. But, in recent years, they’ve become increasingly more severe. Fire seasons are starting sooner, fires are burning hotter, and they’re lasting longer. Fire and climate experts from the University of Idaho warn that our warming climate is adding fuel to an already dangerous wildfire and smoke problem. Declining air quality in the western U.S. has prompted NASA and NOAA to come together to study wildfire smoke and its effects on our cities and our health. And, as people move into the countryside and closer to wildfires, they’re having to become “firewise” to protect themselves and their property. We’ve all heard the term “a picture is worth a thousand words.” If that’s true, then wildland fire photographer Kari Greer would seem to have enough words to fill an online dictionary. Her images are stunning, and her work is important to documenting wildfire history. Producer/director Forrest Burger says, “When I began researching this topic, my ultimate goal was to not only show fire’s fury but to also introduce our viewers to the people who are living with the threat of wildfire every day.”
“The Conquest of the Snake”
– Airs Thursday, October 24, at 8:30 p.m.

For generations, people living on Idaho’s Snake River Plain had learned to live in and cope with the dry and hostile environment. But in the late 19th century, a group of pioneers began to dream of a green land full of farms and fields. This program reveals the story of how people in south-central Idaho labored together to build towns, plow land, and build an irrigation system that would transform the desert and attract thousands of new settlers.

“Made in Boise”
– Airs Friday, October 25, at 8 p.m.

In a companion program to the Independent Lens program “Made in Boise,” host Marcia Franklin visits with filmmaker Beth Aala about how she discovered the surrogacy story, why she thought it would make a good documentary, and the challenges involved in filming it. Aala is a three-time Emmy Award-winning producer and recipient of a Peabody Award for her documentary work at HBO.

“Magnets”

Magnetism is a force of nature, like gravity. You can’t see it, but you can see what it does. We use magnets in lots of everyday devices. We even live on a giant magnet – Earth! Learn more about magnets and magnetism this month.

Each month Science Trek explores with digital shorts available on the Science Trek website www.idahoptv.org/sciencetrek, on Facebook and YouTube, and on PBS Learning Media.
Ken Burns has done it again with his film documenting the prominent role country music has played in the history of the American songbook. His PBS documentary, also in book form as “Country Music: An Illustrated History,” follows “hillbilly” music from its earliest beginnings to the days it morphed into the country and crossover music of today. As a fan for years, I knew the artists and their pop hits, but learned the backstory of the odds they faced as they took their music to the sound booth and stage and weaved their music into the social and political fabric of the day.

Most came from rural and poor America, with many fleeing family dysfunction that weighed heavily against any hope of making it in Nashville or anywhere else. The ravaging effects of alcoholism, large families with children in the fields picking cotton at tender ages, dangerous work in logging and mining, fathers deserting families and leaving mothers to care and provide for the children — all played supporting roles in building barriers for those seeking country music success. Yet, these barriers also contributed to the strength of character and the resolve of mind to make it in one of the most competitive businesses in America.

Those who did make the big time endured long road trips between performances too often aided by amphetamines to stay awake on top of excessive use of alcohol. One group of country singers was dubbed The Outlaws for taking on the Nashville studio system with their own brand of music, but their run-ins with the law at times landed them in jail or prison, adding new meaning to the brand.

In Merle Haggard’s case, he was an inmate at San Quentin when Johnny Cash performed there. Haggard vowed after watching Cash perform that he would find a way to the stage when he got out. Years later, Johnny Cash invited Merle Haggard, a star in his own right, to join him on his TV show and Haggard would tell Cash the secret of his presence at Johnny’s performance years before. Johnny asked Haggard if he could tell the San Quentin story on the show as a sign of hope for those who question the power of redemption. Haggard reluctantly agreed and said later it was the right thing to do.
Cash was always rooting for the underdog, the poor, the prisoners, exemplified by his visit to Folsom Prison and the subsequent album.

He also found his way to the White House where he performed for President Nixon who asked that he play the song, Welfare Cadillac. Johnny stiffed the president of the United States explaining to family later that the song made fun of poor people and he wouldn’t abide.

Even though a number of country artists like Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash were inspired by black artists, country music was not ready for an African-American when Charley Pride would test their loyalty to the music and their racist tendencies. Son of a dirt-poor sharecropper family in the Mississippi Delta, Charley made his way to the country stage, but it didn’t take Charley long to realize that disc jockeys wouldn’t play his songs.

Charley sought out Faron Young, a popular country entertainer of the day, and Young took to Charley. When he heard one radio station refused to play Pride’s music, he told the station if they couldn’t play Charley’s records then he would pull his music from the station. Charley would later say that all the fans needed to hear was his music and it didn’t make any difference if he was green. Faron Young and Charley Pride entered the Country Music Hall of Fame the same year, and Charley would call Faron “one of my best, best friends there ever was.”

Not all of country’s stars and songwriters came from impoverished backgrounds. Kris Kristofferson, known as country music’s poet laureate for his songwriting ability, came from a military family, was an English major and Rhodes scholar who would later serve his country as an Army helicopter pilot. He wrote hits for Johnny Cash and others and went on to build his own repertoire that would earn him success in folk and country music.

Women played a prominent role in the course of country music over the years, and they didn’t always play by the men’s rules. Loretta Lynn may have been known as the Coal Miner’s Daughter from Kentucky, but she was a feminist back when folks didn’t know what that meant. One of her songs about the pill took on contraception when the culture gave women far too little say in the size of their families.

Loretta Lynn is still with us and still making music, but some of country’s stars died way before their time. Hank Williams, in the back of a car on an overnight drive to another gig, succumbed to drugs and alcohol. Patsy Cline died in a plane crash on her way back to Nashville from a benefit performance.

Hank was 29, and Patsy was 30.

Burns’ series may be about country music, but it’s about so much more. It shines light on the stars that made history and shows them to be ordinary people from the cotton fields, the hollers, the river towns, places lost on a map of big cities. Their upbringing, their roots gave birth to extraordinary musical talent that delivered fame and fortune not easily digested by some. Their personal stories, as much as their music, touch the heart and awaken the soul to the goodness in people and the power of redemption in turning around lives and paying it forward to help those coming up behind you.

As much as I enjoyed the country music highlighted in the series, it’s the humanity that springs forth from those who made it that stays with you long after the music is over.

Bob Kustra served as president of Boise State University from 2003 to 2018. He is host of Readers Corner on Boise State Public Radio and is a member of the Statesman editorial board.

https://www.idahostatesman.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/article235474802.html
New documentary follows pregnant women in ‘unofficial surrogacy capital’ of the U.S.

BY AUDREY DUTTON
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Idaho is a hub for surrogacy. People come to Idaho from around the nation and the world, hoping to become parents with the help of a surrogate. The increased demand created a cottage industry in the Treasure Valley in recent years.

A new documentary, “Made in Boise,” by filmmaker Beth Aala, chronicles what it’s like for the women who agree to carry babies for intended parents.

“Four women find purpose carrying babies for strangers in Boise, Idaho — the unregulated and unofficial ‘surrogacy capital’ of the United States — and encounter complexities along the way,” says an advertisement for the show.

According to a news release, the surrogates — also called gestational carriers — include a St. Luke’s NICU nurse, a local nail technician, a stay-at-home mom, and a woman who runs a surrogacy agency and carries babies for other parents.

“Made in Boise” will air on the PBS series Independent Lens on Monday, Oct. 28. But locals can get a sneek peak: The documentary premieres at the Egyptian Theatre in Boise on Saturday, Oct. 5. Free tickets are available at idahoptv.org.