

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT



IDAHO PLUS KIDS CREATE WORLD

Boise KAID-TV 4 Coeur d'Alene KCDT-TV 26 Moscow KUID-TV 12 Pocatello KISU-TV 10 Twin Falls KIPT-TV 13

February 2023

2D Barcode



Past GM Reports

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Quote

"High quality shows and programming provide education and entertainment for us in this still remote location (McCall). Thank you for your continued good work!" – Cynthia



Celebrate Festival 2023 with Idaho Public Television!
Enjoy a variety of music from classic rock to Broadway. Explore Idaho history. Find an array of self-enrichment programs, nature and science specials, and more.

In the Community

'Work It Out Wombats!' Family Viewing Events



Be among the first to watch the new PBS KIDS series *Work It Out Wombats!* at Idaho Public Television's free premiere-viewing events for families around Idaho in February.

After the viewings, there will be fun, hands-on STEM activities kids can do with parents or caregivers.

Created for children ages 3 to 6, *Work It Out Wombats!* follows a playful trio of marsupial siblings who live together in a fantastical treehouse community called the Treeborhood. Each day, the Wombats discover an exciting new challenge that puts their creativity and problem-solving skills to the test. And thanks to their network of family, friends and neighbors across the Treeborhood, they always win the day!

The series isn't just fun, it's designed to teach key concepts for early learners and allow them to practice those skills. In each story, the Wombats demonstrate computational thinking for preschoolers — a way of thinking that enables them to solve problems, express themselves and accomplish tasks using the practices, processes and ideas at the core of computer science. When faced with a new challenge, the Wombats stop, take a breath, put their heads together and figure out a fix—using the design process, sequencing, debugging and other key elements of computational thinking.

Please register in advance for these free events at idahoptv.org/events. Call (208) 373-7220 for more information.

- Friday, Feb. 10, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Challis Public Library, Challis
- Saturday, Feb. 11, time TBD | The Community Library, Ketchum
- Wednesday, Feb. 15, 1 - 2 p.m. | Glens Ferry Public Library
- Friday, Feb. 17, 10 - 11 a.m. | Coeur d'Alene Public Library, Coeur d'Alene
- Saturday, Feb. 18, 10 - 11:30 a.m. | Kenworthy Theatre, Moscow
- Wednesday, Feb. 22, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. | Portneuf Library, Chubbuck

Our IdahoPTV Productions

IDAHO REPORTS

– Airs Fridays, February 3 – 24, at 8 p.m.

During the state's legislative session, the Idaho Reports staff turns a spotlight on the important issues affecting all Idahoans. Idaho Reports is the longest-running public policy show in the West.



IDAHO EXPERIENCE

"Ligertown"

– Airs Thursday, February 16, at 8:30 p.m.

The sun was starting to set on the evening of September 20, 1995. Just outside of Lava Hot Springs, Bruce Hansen was checking on his tomatoes when a large African lion walked across the road near his land. Within hours, law enforcement agents were swarming the hillside outside Lava Hot Springs, looking for more than a dozen lions that had escaped Ligertown Game Farm.

The lions belonged to Bob Fieber and Dottie Martin, the owners of Ligertown. The game farm was constructed from a collection of discarded wood, pallets, metal chain-link fence, and chicken wire. Fieber and Martin didn't have money to properly build a game farm, so they took whatever they could get their hands on to build cages for a growing number of lions, a tiger and hybrid wolves.

The undersheriff at the time, Lorin Neilsen, says the couple mated male lions and a female tiger to create a number of ligers. Fieber and Martin hoped to one day open the game farm to visitors. Many thought it was a fun idea for southeast Idaho. Many in the community supported the farm by providing dead livestock as feed.

But it was only a matter of time before the cages weren't enough to keep the hungry lions in. Featuring never-before-seen video and pictures, Idaho Experience looks at the week lions were on the loose.

This program will be available for streaming on the PBS Video app and online at video.idahoptv.org.



"Computers"

The definition of computer has changed over the years as devices have become more powerful and connected with each other. This month's videos from Science Trek reveal the history of computers, show how coding is used to instruct computers, and explore career opportunities in computer science.

Each month, Science Trek explores subjects with short videos available on the Science Trek website (sciencetrek.org), YouTube and PBS LearningMedia. The Science Trek website has facts, games, links and lesson plans correlated to Idaho and national science standards.



In February, Idaho Public Television launches a new online video series called createid that showcases artists and other makers in Idaho. From iconography to ice carving, weaving to watercolors, createid will illuminate the many ways Idahoans are making their creative marks.

The createid team will experiment with different lengths and styles of storytelling. The varied lengths and online format will make it easier to share stories quickly and also to connect with viewers. Producers also plan to provide opportunities for Idahoans to send photos and videos of their own work and submit ideas for future stories.

"Our goal is to produce stories that will look and feel like something completely new and fresh," says executive producer Jennie Sue Weltner. "Creative storytelling about creatives. That's our goal."

"Bringing something new and different to the IdahoPTV lineup has been a bit daunting at times," says Troy Shreve, the director of the series. "But we're embracing the challenge, and I'm excited to combine my interests of art and video to craft these stories in a creative way."

"PBS has such a long and rich history of celebrating human ingenuity and the arts," says Marcia Franklin, the lead producer of createid. "It's going to be really fun to build on that tradition by shining a light on Idaho creators and their unique ways of looking at our world and beyond."

createid content can be viewed at idahoptv.org/createid and on IdahoPTV's Facebook, Instagram and YouTube pages.

In the News

Post Register

Opinion: How the Idaho budgeting process works

By REP. ROD FURNISS | Guest columnist Jan 21, 2023

The Idaho budget process is the envy of many states. When I attend tax and insurance meetings nationwide, I'm frequently asked how our Joint Finance-Appropriation Committee works and how we get through so many budgets. Under Idaho's Constitution, we must meet each year as a legislative body to pass a balanced budget. Agency budgets are reviewed in detail, voted on in committee, and debated on the floors of the House and Senate. If a budget passes, it goes to the governor for a signature. Let's look at a budget we heard this week.

Idaho Public Television and its multiple services matter for a still-rural state like Idaho with large areas relying on its broadcast signal. The Joint Finance Committee reviewed this agency's budget and heard a presentation from its director. I was impressed with the financial competence and services delivered.

IPTV has two functional areas: 1) a statewide emergency communication system and 2) content creation and acquisition. This budget falls under the purview of the Idaho State Board of Education. Both general fund dollars and public donations support it. Almost 70% of the \$10.6 million budget comes from private donations and grants, with only \$2.8 million from the Idaho taxpayers covering physical infrastructure like towers, transmitters and switches.

The committee discussion included a range of questions from committee members. Should we continue to contract snowcat services to reach towers in the mountains? Or does it make more financial sense for IPTV to receive approval to purchase a snowcat? Before we set this budget, the committee will see an economic analysis that helps answer these questions.

In the coming weeks, we'll ask many more questions to help us decide how to set over 100 budgets for our state. The process takes time and working closely with other committee members to get the job done. Some of the larger budgets, including education and health and welfare, will bring together large groups that meet regularly.

While state law often directs where funds must go in these budgets, we can look at and weigh specific line items. In recent years, some of those line items included deferred maintenance that totaled almost \$1 billion across the state. Other decisions, like additional funding for our state auditors, reflect current market realities. If we want to hold our state agencies accountable and make sure they're following state law and policy, we need to ensure we can keep auditors on staff to do the job.

As an Idaho resident, you can participate in this process too. IPTV broadcasts live sessions of our daily JFAC hearings and floor sessions. You can also view cases presented before the Supreme Court and other special events, like Gov. Little's recent inauguration. I would encourage you to watch your state government at work during the session at idahoptv.org.



Ron Furniss

The Idaho budgeting process has worked well over many years, ensuring we meet our constitutional obligation to produce a balanced budget. In the two weeks I've served on the committee, I've seen firsthand how hard legislative services work to support our budget process. Together, I'm confident we can once again produce a budget through a process that's made our state famous among other elected leaders.

Rep. Rod Furniss represents District 31, which includes Fremont, Jefferson, Clark and Lemhi counties.



City Club Presents Behind the Scenes at Idaho Public Television



Published January 23, 2023 at 12:22 PM MST

The most recent City Club of Idaho Falls forum was January 19th, 2023 on the topic "Behind the Scenes at Idaho Public Television." Guest speakers were IPTV's Bill Manny and Lauren Melink. They discussed the importance of supporting education, delivering unbiased news, the challenges of documenting Idaho history, and future directions for Idaho Public Television. They also talked about their roles with the popular program Outdoor Idaho. This post contains video clips used during the presentation.

<https://www.kisu.org/2023-01-23/city-club-presents-behind-the-scenes-at-idaho-public-television>



Anti-vaping campaign highlights Idaho's crisis

Darren Svan 01/31/2023

Idaho Public Television is launching an anti-vaping awareness campaign this spring to address a crisis affecting Idaho teenagers, a group highly susceptible to new fads and trendy products.

Two out of five Idaho teenagers have tried vaping at least once, according to the anti-vaping campaign funded by the Idaho Millennium Fund, created by the Legislature in 2000 to fund tobacco prevention efforts.

The statewide campaign called "KNOW VAPE" has two focal points.

The first is an hour-long documentary called "Nic Sick" that airs March 21 at 7 p.m. on IPTV. Organizers released a film trailer this week highlighting the testimonials of teens who discuss how vaping negatively impacted their young lives.



A new documentary that highlights the damaging effects of underage vaping in Idaho will be released in March. The film is called "Nic Sick."

The second is a contest for teens with over \$10,000 in prizes. Contestants will produce original 90-second anti-vape videos. The deadline for submissions is April 1st .

Opponents of underage vaping face a billion dollar industry backed with engineers, scientists and deep corporate pockets whose marketing is designed to influence young adults and teenagers.

Companies like Juul used Twitter, Youtube, and Instagram to market sleek, colorful vaping products, and hired social media influencers to create a buzz, according to the Truth Initiative, a nonprofit dedicated to tobacco prevention.

Vaping devices are designed to be easily disguised and come with flavored liquids that are hard for parents and schools to detect.

“It’s unbelievable the billions of dollars that the big tobacco companies have spent in creating this crisis,” said Jennie Sue Weltner, an executive producer of the documentary.

The single biggest misconception is that vaping is a safe alternative to cigarettes, Weltner said. “And that is absolutely not true.”

One Juul pod is equivalent to smoking 20 cigarettes. Juul Labs was a leader in the creation of vaping devices that produce an aerosol — the visible white smoke — by heating liquid that contains nicotine. These disposable pods, which are about half the size of a USB flash drive, contain that liquid nicotine.

“And so the impact of that amount of nicotine is tremendous,” said Weltner. “I got pretty angry about it. And, I am deeply empathetic for the kids who are struggling with it, because when you hear their stories, it’s pretty heartbreaking.”

Supported by real experiences of Idaho teens and healthcare professionals, Weltner’s documentary reveals the truth about underage vaping — lung damage, inhibited brain development, and nicotine addiction.

“From the beginning, I felt this was a story that needed to be told by the kids. I thought it would be so much more effective than a bunch of grownups telling youth what not to do,” Weltner said.

The honest stories of teenagers trying to overcome vaping addiction and the problems that vaping has caused, she said, are heartbreaking.

“Every teen we talked to was from Idaho. Big cities, rural cities — the problem is everywhere.”

The anti-vaping campaign will include a website with resources for parents and educators that will go live in March. Weltner is also partnering with health departments and school districts to bring presentations into the schools.

To learn more about the health consequences of vaping, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website [here](#).

In addition to the multi-million dollar settlements Juul Labs has agreed to pay for marketing its products to underage users, the company still faces thousands of additional lawsuits. And Idaho is set to receive a settlement of \$8.3 million, the Idaho Press reported this month.