Goodbye, and Thank You

After 36 years at IdahoPTV — eight of those as general manager — I have decided to retire and let someone new lead the organization into an exciting future. It has been the greatest privilege and joy to be part of the Idaho Public Television family.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for ALL your support over the past 36 years. It has been an honor to serve you in my various capacities during that time. I feel we have been able to accomplish a lot of great things during my tenure, but none of it would have been possible without your support and encouragement. I know that in the years ahead, our incredibly talented and dedicated staff will provide you with terrific content and services. I have often said that “You are the public in public television,” so I hope as my successor takes over that we can count on your continued support. It can’t happen without you.

I also want to thank you for allowing me to share my picks for what to watch each month, in Channels and each week in my on-air video segments. It was so nice to hear from so many viewers around town and in phone and email messages telling me how you tuned in to a program you wouldn’t otherwise have checked out because of my recommendation — and found it worthwhile. Over the past many years that I did my “Ron’s Picks” I tried to introduce you to people, places and events both here in Idaho and around the world that helped you to better understand and appreciate the human condition.

Our mission is to “harness the power of public media to encourage lifelong learning, connect our communities, and enrich the lives of all Idahoans. We tell Idaho’s stories.” Over my career at Idaho Public Television, I have dedicated my time to meeting that mission. I hope I have helped make your life a little bit better. So thank you for the truly fulfilling work, the wonderful memories, the great friendships I made over the years, and for allowing me to be a part of this wonderful enterprise that is Idaho Public Television.
Remembering Ken Segota

IdahoPTV’s longtime friend and colleague Ken Segota passed away Wednesday, June 23, 2021. Ken worked at Idaho Public Television for more than 50 years and was the heart and soul of KUID for most of that time, serving as its chief engineer. Our hearts go out to his wife, Joy, and their family.

Ken was always the go-to guy when it came to the engineering needs of our north Idaho stations. As the Chief Engineer of KUID & KCDT, he maintained our regional production center and a network of two full-power transmitters, and 10 translators, most of which are on very difficult to reach mountaintops. He was that rare individual who could do practically everything. While most engineers can solve technical problems, given enough resources, Ken had an uncanny ability to find a creative solution, even when those resources were not available.

Over the years, he served on the State of Idaho Inland Northwest Emergency Communications Committee, much of that time as chairman. Ken was instrumental in helping to develop the Idaho Emergency Alert System Statewide plan. He also provided countless hours of support to the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security Communications division as Idaho Public Television’s northern interconnected microwave system serves both television and emergency communication needs.

Last year Ken was inducted into the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, Northwest Chapter’s 2020 Gold Circle. The Gold Circle recognizes individuals who have served in the industry for a minimum of 50 years, with an emphasis on contributions to the profession and to the community.

Ken will be greatly missed by all of us at IdahoPTV.

Emmy Awards

The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Northwest Chapter recently announced this year’s regional Emmy Awards. The Outdoor Idaho crew claimed two statuettes. Way to Go!!!

- Outdoor Idaho “Sawtooths on My Mind” – Informational/Instructional - Long Form Content
- Outdoor Idaho “The 12ers” – Sports Program-Post-Produced or Edited
In the Community

Education Outreach

Early Learning Educational Events Open to the Public

- Join us July 6, July 13, July 20, and July 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Sacajawea Elementary, 1710 N Illinois Ave in Caldwell, for A Book and a Bite. Kids will enjoy a free lunch, STEM activities, and free books to keep them learning all summer.

- On July 12, we’ll be at the Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn St, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. for Summer Storytime.

- On July 22, we’ll participate in the United We Read event from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Riverfront Park in Garden City.

Teacher Bailee Bigley Selected As 2021-2022 Digital Innovator

We are excited to announce Bailee Bigley has been chosen as Idaho Public Television’s Digital Innovator for the 2021-2022 school year. Bigley teaches third grade at Linden Park Elementary in Idaho Falls.

Our Digital Innovator program recognizes Idaho teachers who are pushing the boundaries of teaching to better engage their students and who enhance learning by integrating technology or digital media into their classrooms. This is the third year that IdahoPTV has held a local campaign.

Bright. Bold. Brilliant. Those were three of the words used by a colleague to describe Bigley. She stood out among the nominees for her ability to innovate, her dedication to building relationships with students, and her desire to improve her craft.

As the 2021-2022 IdahoPTV Digital Innovator, Bigley will collaborate with our education department to provide in-person trainings for schoolteachers across the state, get an all-expense-paid trip to the Northwest Council for Computer Education 2022 conference in Seattle, and receive a classroom innovation kit.

We are excited to welcome Bailee Bigley to the IdahoPTV Digital Innovator family and look forward to learning from her in the coming year!
IdahoPTV’s Partnership With Bright By Text Helps Children Learn and Grow at Home

Idaho Public Television has teamed up with Bright by Text, a free, national parent texting program, to put expert tips, games and child development information directly into the hands of parents and caregivers, in both Spanish and English.

The texting service includes topics like brain development, games and activities, health and wellness, STEM, safety and more. Bright by Text partners with experts like PBS, Vroom, Sesame Street, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and others to develop content for families with children ages 0 to 8.

Parents and caregivers can subscribe to Bright by Text in English or Spanish by texting IDAHOFAMILY to the number 274448. Subscribers will receive two to five tips each week. The tips are easy learning tips that parents, adults and caregivers can do on-the-go with children. Entering a zip code allows users to receive resources specific to Idaho communities. Community organizations throughout Idaho can share information about services, resources, and local events.

Bright by Text helps parents and caregivers make the most of their time at home with their children by illustrating fun and easy activities, providing positive parenting tips and resources, and even video content to guide a child’s development. The program is proven to build nurturing caregiver-child relationships, and positively impact a child’s healthy development and school readiness. More than 95% of Bright by Text subscribers indicate they feel more confident and informed about their child’s development as a result of the text messages.

PBS LearningMedia Offers Free Teaching Resources

PBS LearningMedia is a one-stop shop for teachers and parents looking for trusted, quality content for their classroom and homeschool use. LearningMedia is home to free, standards-aligned, curated resources ready for PreK-12 students, including videos, interactives, and lesson plans drawn from PBS’ hallmark series and producers such as NOVA, Ken Burns, and Fred Rogers Productions.

PBS LearningMedia is also filled with award-winning, locally-relevant educational content created by PBS member stations — including Idaho Public Television — working in partnership with educators and subject matter experts. The site integrates with Google Classroom, Clever, and Remind, and has features that allow teachers to save and create folders, and to share resources with individual students or full classes.

At Idaho Public Television, we value local content and local teachers. For this reason, we have taken an active role in creating content for PBS LearningMedia. You will find several local collections, including Science Trek, Idaho Experience, and Moments in Time: From the Journals of Lewis and Clark, and Idaho Science Journal. All of these collections contain locally produced video content and lesson plans aligned to Idaho standards and created by Idaho teachers.

From Sesame Street to Idaho Experience, PBS LearningMedia is the place to go for engaging content for your school and home classroom!
“Water & Amphibians”

During July, Science Trek explores Earth’s water cycle and how amphibians grow from aquatic gill-breathers into lung-breathing adults.

Each month, Science Trek explores subjects with short videos available on the website (sciencetrek.org), YouTube and PBS LearningMedia.

The website has facts, games, links and lesson plans correlated to Idaho and national science standards.