



IDAHO PUBLIC TELEVISION

General Manager's Report

By Ron Pisaneschi

208-373-7220

idptv@idahoptv.org

2D Barcode



Past GM Reports

Inside this issue:

- Quotes, *Page 1*
- Festival, *Page 1*
- IdahoPTV's Presentation to the Senate Education Committee, *Page 2*
- In the Community, *Page 2*
- Our IdahoPTV Productions, *Page 2*
- In the News, *Page 5*

Quotes

"Congratulations and thanks for the great Idaho Reports on the 9th. The new set is excellent and the panel outstanding, as usual, with Betsy Russell and Dr. Weatherby." –Charles

"Thank you for trying to make this a better place for all" –Miles

"Thank you so much for all of your fantastic programming. Don't know what we would watch if it wasn't for IPTV." –Timothy and Jane



A number of outstanding local and national productions are sure to inform and entertain our viewers during Festival 2015.

Highlights include the two-part, IdahoPTV-produced *Into Africa: The Idaho-Gorongosa Connection*, which features the numerous people from Idaho who are working with philanthropist Greg Carr to restore Gorongosa National Park in Mozambique. Also from Idaho Public Television's production team is *Idaho: State of Wonder*, which features an amazing look at our spectacular state from both the air and the ground.

Prime-time music specials to watch for include *50 Years of Peter, Paul and Mary*; *Transatlantic Sessions*, starring Nashville dobro master Jerry Douglas and Scottish fiddle virtuoso Aly Bain; and *John Denver, Country Boy*. For drama lovers there is the final episode of the popular "Downton Abbey Season 5" on *Masterpiece Classic* and a special look at the new season of *Mr. Selfridge* in *Mr. Selfridge: A Celebration*.



IdahoPTV's Presentation to the Senate Education Committee

IdahoPTV's presentation to the Senate Education Committee is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, at 3 p.m. Mtn/2 p.m. Pac. The presentation will be streamed live at <http://idahoptv.org/insession/leg.cfm>.

In the Community

On January 26, Idaho Public Television aired *Journey to College*, a 90-minute live call-in program that featured a panel of education practitioners who looked at some roadblocks to higher education in our state. Over 35 minutes of field material was edited for the program, which included stories of high school students traveling the road to their postsecondary education opportunity. The panel members offered solutions to help high school students identify postsecondary education opportunities. This program was produced in association with the office of the Idaho State Board of Education. Grant manager, Byron Yankey, received an email after the program aired from a counselor explaining how the information helped one of his students to look into a vo-tech education within the state that would save him almost \$30,000. The program was rebroadcast several times and will remain online for the foreseeable future at <http://video.idahoptv.org/video/2365412316/>.



The 21st annual PBS Kids Writers Contest is here. For students in kindergarten through third grade, it is time to pick up a pencil or pen, or sit at a keyboard and begin writing and illustrating stories for the contest. Rules and entry forms for the contest are at www.idahoptv.org/kids and at public libraries and elementary schools throughout Idaho. This contest is a chance for young Idahoans to express their ideas in a story with at least five illustrations. Kindergarten and first-grade stories must be 50 to 200 words; second- and third-grade stories must be 100 to 350 words. Text may be dictated to an adult by a child who cannot write. Stories may be typed or handwritten. Entries will be accepted through March 27.

Our IdahoPTV Productions

Behind the Stories

Outdoor Idaho: "Search and Rescue"

By Sauni Symonds



It happened so fast he wasn't even sure what had slipped first, his right hand or his right foot. He felt his entire body hit the rock wall, and watched as his glasses seemed to sail away in slow motion through the air. Hanging by a rope, upside down, at over 10,000 ft., he felt pain in his right foot and knew he was in trouble.

For Ron Wallace a scenario like this didn't seem possible. He was an experienced mountaineer who had been climbing most of his life. But here he was. Now what? Luckily, he wasn't alone. His belayer managed to lower him off the rock to a safe place; and then they, very painfully, worked their way to a ridge where they were able to get a cell signal and call for help. Help came in the way of an Army National Guard helicopter, and a search and rescue team, who got him off the mountain safely.



But what if the cell phone hadn't worked? It's a ten-mile round trip hike to Mount Heyburn, one of the most distinguished peaks in the Sawtooth Range towering over the Stanley basin. His companions and rescuers would have done quite a bit of hiking and hauling if the helicopter hadn't been able to land, or hadn't been available.

Search and Rescue teams across the country historically have been made up of volunteers who donate their time and resources. Funds to keep units operating usually come from a variety of resources, including government grants. Search teams are considered part of community service, kind of like the fire or police departments, just without the paycheck.



But when more and more people start to head into the outdoors to recreate, especially near high density population areas, the number of people getting lost, stranded, or hurt also increase. If you get lost in any national park, the government picks up the tab to rescue you; but for recreation areas like the Sawtooths, volunteer units and the county sheriff deal with search and rescue operations.

In many areas the cost of getting lost or hurt in the outdoors is falling back on the victims. Idaho hasn't quite reached that point. Most local search and rescue teams, like Idaho Mountain Search & Rescue and Sawtooth Search and Rescue, still don't charge. But as more people head to the hills, expenses for rescue and recovery missions are inevitably going to have to be reimbursed in some cases. Communities simply don't have budgets to handle helicopter rescues off mountain tops, or weeklong search operations into the wilderness on a regular basis.

What constitutes negligence, reckless behavior, or an accident? At what point do individuals who head into the backcountry, unprepared or unable to take care of themselves, realize that the cost of their rescue may be their responsibility? The solution may ultimately come down to dollars for some agencies, and the scenario may often be the deciding factor.

Volunteer organizations like Idaho Mountain Search & Rescue not only save people, but they also spend much of their time educating them. Part of their mission statement is to provide outdoor safety education with the intent to teach people how to survive in the wilds if they get lost or hurt.

It's doubtful the unit will ever charge for their services. There is a concern that if people think there is a cost for help, they might not ask. To these members a life is more important than money, and the ability to help is payment enough.





Into Africa: The Idaho-Gorongosa Connection

—Airs Wednesday, March 4, at 7 p.m.

Into Africa: The Idaho-Gorongosa Connection chronicles the efforts of several Idahoans to protect and restore Mozambique's Gorongosa National Park following years of devastation and neglect caused by civil war and related strife. Led by Idaho philanthropist Greg Carr, the group's efforts have inspired PBS to produce a series of shows on Gorongosa's restoration that is scheduled to air in fall of 2015. IdahoPTV has been working closely with PBS to obtain behind-the-scenes footage, interviews, and finished segments; and our viewers will be the first audience in the world to see this footage during *Into Africa*.



Idaho: State of Wonder

—Airs Thursday, March 5, at 8 p.m.

Idaho: State of Wonder is an updated version of *Idaho, An Aerial Tapestry*, the popular special that first aired in 1999. However, *State of Wonder* will be a mix that includes spectacular ground shots. "We decided that to get a real feel for an area, you needed a combination that provides both aerial and up-close perspectives," said Pat Metzler, one of the show's producers.



"Author Lois Leveen"

—Airs Friday, February 13, at 7:30 p.m.



In conjunction with both Black History Month and Valentine's Day, Marcia Franklin interviews historical novelist Lois Leveen, Ph.D. Leveen, who lives in Portland, Oregon, is the author of *The Secrets of Mary Bowser*, a fictionalized account of Mary Bowser, a house slave in Richmond before the Civil War.

Bowser was freed by her mistress, Elizabeth Van Lew, to receive an education in the North. She subsequently returned to Richmond and was installed as a spy in the Confederate White House of Jefferson Davis. Information provided by Bowser was passed to General Ulysses S. Grant, who credited it with helping the North win the war.

Juliet's Nurse, another of Leveen's novels, imagines the life of the nurse in Romeo and Juliet and her pivotal role in the iconic Shakespeare play.

Franklin talks with Leveen about how she comes up with her ideas, how she researches them, and what she hopes readers will learn from the books.



“Robotics”

—Airs February 17 at 2/1 p.m. MT/PT

We use robots everywhere, even on Mars, but how are robots developed? How will robots change things in the future? On this month's *Science Trek*, host Joan Cartan-Hansen and her guests, Josh Johnson, professor at Boise State University; and Dean Klein, Vice President of Advanced Memory Solutions at Micron, will answer students' questions about robots.

In the News

TVKIDS.WS

PBS Kids Gets Own YouTube Channel

By Joel Marino

Published: January 28, 2015

ARLINGTON: PBS Kids has landed on YouTube, launching a branded channel targeting children 2 to 8 years old and their parents.

The channel will include hundreds of clips and promotional videos from various PBS Kids series, including Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood, Peg + Cat, Wild Kratts, Arthur, Martha Speaks, WordGirl and the new series, Odd Squad. Viewers can also watch full episodes on YouTube from web original series, among them Fizzy's Lunch Lab, Oh Noah! and Plum Landing. New content will be added to the channel weekly.

“In recent years, the average amount of time children spend using mobile devices has tripled and they continue to stream videos on increasingly varied platforms,” PBS Kids stated. “Having a greater presence on YouTube will make it even easier for more families to access programming from the number one kids' educational media brand.”