

February 2017



IDAHO PUBLIC TELEVISION

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



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

2D Barcode



Past GM Reports

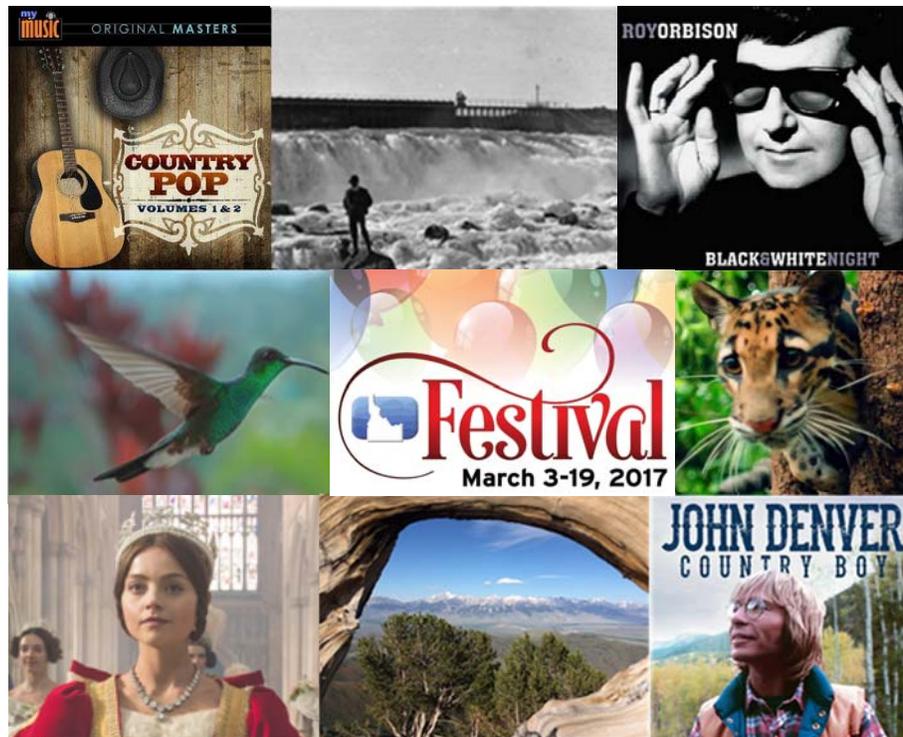
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Quotes

"I'm excited to use the IPTV Passport." – Roger

"We absolutely love Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood and Outdoor Idaho. Quality shows for the entire family. Thank you!" – Allison



Celebrate Festival 2017 with Idaho Public Television. Enjoy a variety of music from rock to classical. Watch an array of self-help programs, nature shows, travel programs, and the season finale of Victoria on Masterpiece. See three new IdahoPTV specials: Outdoor Idaho "Where the Road Ends" is an hourlong program that explores some of Idaho's unique out-of-the-way places such as Big Creek, Chesterfield, Elk City, Castle Peak, and Atlanta. Science Trek looks back at more than 18 years of programs that make science fun for kids. Dialogue is planning a look at five years of the phenomenon that is Boise's Treefort Music Fest.

Governor Otter's Budget Recommendation

Governor Otter's budget recommendation for IdahoPTV includes a 3% merit based change in employee compensation pool that again this time will be all merit-based.

In addition, he is recommending funding for every one of our capital equipment replacement requests, except one \$15,000 item.

IdahoPTV's Presentations to Legislative Committees

On Friday, January 27, IdahoPTV made its annual budget presentation to the Joint Finance – Appropriations Committee. Ron presented an overview of the agency, and legislative budget analyst Robyn Lockett reviewed the governor's FY18 budget recommendation.

On Wednesday, February 8, at 3 p.m. Mtn., Ron will make an agency presentation before the Senate Education Committee.

On Thursday, February 9, at 9 a.m. Mtn., Ron will make an agency presentation before the House Education Committee.

The February 8 and 9 presentations can be watched online at <http://idahoptv.org/insession/leg.cfm>.

Winter Translator Site Scenes

Winter can be pretty harsh at our translator and transmitter sites. It can also be difficult or dangerous for our engineers to get to the sites. Here are a couple of photos of what it looks like this winter.



Hip-Deep

By Bruce Reichert, Executive Producer

The above-average snow this past month meant a trip to the Idaho City telecommunications site above town, to remove snow from the building housing the Idaho City digital TV repeater, next to the 80 foot tower. The site provides four channels of PBS television programming to the residents of Idaho City. It also provides the Boise County Sheriff's office with a digital connection to the rest of Idaho's public safety network.



"We weren't sure what we'd find," said IdahoPTV chief engineer Rich Van Genderen. "We just knew we didn't want to go into February without checking it out. If ever there was a year to worry about snow load and ice dams, this is the year!" Van Genderen said this is the first year they've removed snow from the roof.

"We sure were impressed with the structural strength of that mobile military unit. It held up nicely under the weight of the snow." The flat-roofed building was purchased to hold the electronic gear connected to the large antenna located about a mile northeast of Boise County's solid waste facility.

IdahoPTV's Idaho City translator site was a five year project that was completed in 2012.



"It took a year to plan, another year to find funding, and three years to build," explained Peter Morrill, retired general manager of Idaho Public Television. "When television went digital, the signal from Deer Point could not penetrate the valley that Idaho City is situated in. We knew we had to do something; Idaho City is a county seat of government and one of our state's oldest towns."

But Idaho City had no telecommunications site to locate a fill-in repeater, and it was no easy task to build one, said Morrill.



"Luckily, we were able to partner with the Idaho public safety folks who had a need to connect with local law enforcement and emergency services. We also worked with the Boise County Commissioners, the Forest Service, and Idaho Department of Lands to cross various properties. Finally, the good folks at Idaho Power did a wonderful job of installing almost a mile of buried power cable to the remote site."

Now that the hip-deep snow has been removed, the Idaho City tower and building should survive the rest of the winter without additional shoveling.



In the Community



2017 Pundits Forum

On January 11, 2017, IdahoPTV's co-host of Idaho Reports Melissa Davlin joined Betsy Russell, William Spence, Jim Weatherby on Pundits Forum. These are some of the questions discussed at the annual legislative pundits forum: What will legislators do with a surplus of more than \$100 million? Will they cut taxes — and, if so, whose taxes will get cut? Will teachers get \$58 million in pay raises this year, or will politics get in the way? Will legislators address the plight of the 78,000 Idahoans in the Medicaid gap? Will legislators tighten up campaign finance laws? How will Donald Trump's presidential agenda influence the debate at the Statehouse — on school choice, health care and public lands?



Stimpson Award Forum

On December 9, 2016, IdahoPTV's Outdoor Idaho "Beyond the White Clouds" was shown to attendees at the Stimpson Award Forum honoring Congressman Mike Simpson and Idaho Conservation League Director Rick Johnson. The show provides an overview of the steps that led to the creation of the Boulder White Clouds Wilderness. A conservative Republican congressman and a prominent environmentalist who put aside their differences to become partners in passing a sweeping Idaho wilderness bill are the 2016 recipients of City Club of Boise's Dottie and Ed Stimpson Award for Civic Engagement. Congressman Mike Simpson and ICL Director Rick Johnson led an effort that involved many, collaborating over the course of 15 years to draft multiple wilderness proposals, build local consensus and then win national support. The bill creating three new wilderness areas totaling 275,665 acres passed Congress and was signed into law by President Obama in August 2015. In selecting Simpson and Johnson, Boise City Club cited the risks the two men took with their reputations and careers in taking on a controversial and often unpopular project; standing up to opposition sometimes from even their own supporters; demonstrating courage in the face of those risks to do what they believed was right for Idaho; and creating a model for how Idahoans and Americans can find resolution on divisive environmental and political issues.

Our IdahoPTV Productions



"Where the Road Ends"

—Airs Thursday, March 9 at 8 p.m.



Ever wondered what's at the end of the road? In this hourlong special, we'll visit some of Idaho's end-of-the-road places, including Atlanta, Chesterfield, Big Creek, Castle Peak, Bayview, Joyce Ranch, and Paradise.

Dialogue

"A Life Reconnected: Esther Emery"

—Airs Friday, February 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Host Marcia Franklin talks with Idahoan Esther Emery, who wrote a book about her year off the Internet called "What Falls From the Sky."



Emery talks about the crisis in her life that made her decide to unplug from the web, the challenges she encountered, and how the experience grounded and connected her in new ways to herself and her family.

The two also talk about Emery's current life living off the electric grid with her husband and three children in the mountains above Robie Creek, about 30 miles from Boise. Emery homeschools her children, and the family raises goats and chickens. Her mother, Carla Emery, was a leader in the back-to-the-land movement of the 1970s and the author of the popular "Encyclopedia of Country Living."



“Snakes”

—Airs February 21 at 2/1 p.m. MT/PT

Snakes have long, scaly bodies with no arms or legs. They live almost everywhere on earth and very few are poisonous. Snakes play an important role in the ecosystem, yet many people fear them. How do you know which snakes are safe and which ones are dangerous? What makes snakes unique? Join host Joan Cartan-Hansen and her guests, Charles Peterson, professor of biology at Idaho State University, and Frank Lundburg, Boise State University adjunct professor and wildlife educator, as they discuss snakes and answer students’ questions.

Science Trek is Idaho Public Television’s science education project for elementary age children. Students watch Science Trek over the air or on the Science Trek website. They can send their questions through e-mail to ScienceTrek@idahoptv.org or submit video questions recorded on their smart phones or webcams. Teachers can also borrow a video camera or iPad from IdahoPTV and record questions. Students who send in a question are eligible to win prizes for their classroom. The Science Trek Web site offers facts, links, reading lists, a glossary, podcasts of programs, video shorts, full episodes and special Science Trek web exclusive programming.

In the News



Business Affiliate Highlight: Idaho Public Television



Track legislation that impacts your nonprofit organization and your stakeholders with a FREE public resource made available by Idaho Public Television.

Idaho in Session is IdahoPTV’s gavel-to-gavel service that includes live on-air and online coverage of the Idaho Legislature during the 2017 session.

Coverage of the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC), the Lincoln Auditorium WW02 and East Wing 42 as well as the eight committee legislative hearing rooms can be viewed online on almost any device.

Anyone with over-the-air reception of IdahoPTV’s four digital channels can watch live sessions from the House (on the Learn/Create Channel) and the Senate (on the World Channel). The channels are also carried by some cable providers. Coverage can also be viewed online via computer or handheld device.

Media files from all chamber sessions and committee meetings can be downloaded from the Idaho Legislature’s website or the IdahoPTV’s website.

Idaho in Session’s other services include live streaming of limited online press conferences through Governor Live and offers live online coverage of the Idaho Supreme Court when it holds oral arguments in Boise.

BOISE WEEKLY

January 20, 2017

Idaho Arts, Public Broadcasting Organizations Respond to Trump Plans to Cut Federal Funds

By Harrison Berry



The effect of federal spending cuts could be calamitous. - - TASHATUVANGO/123RF

President-elect Donald Trump is ringing a familiar bell: Cut federal spending on arts and broadcasting to save money.

According to a report from The Hill, the transition team has floated privatizing the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and eliminating the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. If the plan goes through, it could have profound consequences for education, arts and public television and radio in the Gem State.

“That’s some real bread and butter for Idaho arts,” said Idaho Commission on the Arts Executive Director Michael Faison. “Saddle-making, silver engraving, rawhide braiding—they’re assisted through these funds. We are the conveyors of these masters in the traditional arts.”

The proposed cuts would be “inconvenient” to more populous states, where state money and private donors account for up to 90 percent of similar organizations’ budgets. In states like Idaho, Wyoming, Utah and Montana, however, Faison said slashing federal funding would “be a significant diminishment”—50 percent for the ICA alone.

This isn’t the first time federal support for such programs has been threatened. During the Reagan administration and again when Newt Gingrich was Speaker of the House of Representatives in the mid-1990s, similar efforts to defund spending on arts and public broadcasting were defeated.

The Trump administration is still “getting its sea legs,” Faison said, and although efforts to reduce or eliminate funding are taken seriously, leaders of organizations that receive these funds aren’t panicking over the news—yet.

“The American public finds enormous value in the work we do, and they let members of Congress and the administration know of their support,” said Idaho Public Television General Manager Ron Pisaneschi.

Pisaneschi said approximately \$1.5 million of IPTV’s roughly \$8 million budget comes from CPB. Slashing those funds would be a disaster for locally generated programming like Idaho Reports, as well as national programs like American Experience and The News Hour.

Changing the funding mechanism for public broadcasting would have another consequence: wiping out television and radio service to rural communities, where economic factors prevent private media companies from broadcasting.

“Smaller cities and rural areas would be hardest hit,” said Boise State Public Radio General Manager Tom Michael. “For an organization like ours, which serves a lot of rural Idaho, we’d struggle to serve underserved areas. As funding decreases, providing those services becomes more of a challenge.”

In some of those areas, public broadcasting has been used to alert communities to potential threats, like violent storms and wildfires.

Though 10-15 percent of BSPR's annual budget comes from federal sources, public dollars act as "seed money" to attract private donations that make up the bulk of public broadcasters' budgets. According to Protect My Public Media, for every dollar spent by the federal government on public broadcasting, "viewers like you" raise an additional \$6. Public media costs each American approximately \$1.35 per year.

However, leaders in public broadcasting and the arts aren't taking the news laying down, said Idaho Humanities Council Executive Director Rick Ardinger. Funds through the NEH contribute 60-70 percent of Ardinger's annual budget, and he has been in contact with heads of similar organizations to reach out to members of Congress and "mount a campaign to fight it."

In an email to the 18-member IHC board of directors, Ardinger said the organization still plans to award grants in February "even though we are uncertain what we ultimately will receive for FY 2017 from the NEH later this spring."

Under the proposal from Trump's transition team, CPB would be restructured into a private entity, but programs that fund arts and humanities would be eliminated entirely. The move, were it to clear Congress, would deal a crippling blow to production and education in those areas.

Idaho organizations potentially under threat of funding cuts could have an ally in their fight: Republican Rep. Mike Simpson. He sits on the House Appropriations Committee; the Interior and Environment Subcommittee; and the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee. The Appropriations Committee oversees funding for the NEA, NEH and CPB, and the Representative has historically been a supporter of public funding for the arts, humanities and broadcasting.

Pisaneschi has been in contact with Simpson's office.

"[Simpson] has been a supporter of ours over the years." Pisaneschi said, adding Simpson "has shown indications" of continued support.

(Simpson's office could not be reached for comment.)

Public funding of the arts and broadcasting has been popular with fiscal conservatives and budget hawks in the past. The NEA and NEH are lean organizations that allow funds funneled through them to be used according to individual states' priorities. Faison said the NEA "is the kind of agency many people would like to see in D.C." — examples of "federalism in action."

The major changes and cuts are part of a broader program that would include slashing the budgets of the departments of Commerce and Energy to reduce federal spending by \$10.5 trillion over the next decade, but critics of the cuts say trimming public broadcasting and support for the arts and humanities would be drops in the proverbial bucket. In 2016, CPB received \$445 million, the NEA received \$148 million and NEH requested \$148 million. For scale, total government spending in 2016 according to the Congressional Budget Office came to \$3.9 trillion. According to The Washington Post, their combined budgets account for approximately .02 percent of all federal spending.

"This is not where you're going to find the resources needed to balance the federal budget over time," Faison said. "It could be a rounding error."



Key lawmaker downplays threat to CPB funding

By Dru Sefton, Senior Editor | January 31, 2017

The chair of a key House Appropriations subcommittee said that the forthcoming White House budget should take aim at bigger deficit reduction targets than the relatively small appropriations for CPB and two endowments supporting arts and humanities.

Even if the Trump administration does target CPB in its first budget, the corporation would most likely survive the challenge, said Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.), because “there is a strong constituency for public broadcasting in both the House and Senate.”

Cole heads the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, which handles funding for CPB, the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. In an interview Monday, he said appropriations for all three are only a small portion of the \$163 billion in federal spending that his committee oversees. CPB’s fiscal 2016 \$445 million appropriation, along with \$147.9 million for each of the endowments, total less than \$741 million.



A budget blueprint circulated by the conservative Heritage Foundation during the 2016 general election calls for eliminating appropriations to all three. An anonymously sourced story in The Hill reported that Trump’s team is following that template. It calls for “privatization” of CPB and defunding both arts agencies.

In its response to the Jan. 19 article, CPB described the proposal as nothing new. Similar ideas “have been circulating around Washington for years and have been soundly rejected on a bipartisan basis — most recently by the Republican-controlled House of Representatives in 2015,” the statement said.

Cole criticized the proposal for pragmatic reasons. “We can’t balance a budget by going after relatively small items,” he said. “If this administration is serious about deficit reduction, then we have to talk about entitlement programs. So far the administration is unwilling to do that.”

Social Security, Medicare and other safety-net programs make up about 59 percent of the federal budget, according to the nonpartisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Appropriations for CPB, NEA and NEH total less than 0.02 percent of total federal spending.

It’s another matter to consider whether the government should fund public broadcasting, Cole said, adding: “That’s a fair debate to have, but don’t call it deficit reduction because it’s not, and you’re not likely to win that way.”

Trump’s first budget proposal for 2017 and ’18 is expected to be released at the end of February and to summarize the new president’s main priorities for federal spending. The full, detailed budget is expected by late April.

Cole said it’s too early to predict how the new administration’s budget may affect public broadcasting.

“First we need to finish up the fiscal 2017 budget,” Cole said. As for public broadcasting’s appropriation, which is forward-funded by two years, there’s “no way we would change the fiscal ’17 budget” for CPB. That FY17 funding, approved in 2015, is supported by both the Senate and House, he said.

As for the FY17-18 budget, "I won't say that no programs will be cut," Cole added. Beyond the GOP majority's priority to reduce federal spending, there could be pressure to reallocate funding under his subcommittee's jurisdiction to other agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health. If Congress decides to increase funding to NIH, "then it could become robbing Peter to pay Paul. If NIH is the Paul, who are the Peters?"

Cole said he's heard "nothing definitive" about the White House following the Heritage budget, which also targets many other federal programs. But he added that Mick Mulvaney, President Trump's nominee for director of the Office of Management and Budget, "has very close ties" to the Heritage Foundation. "Maybe he gathered some of his ideas from that budget, but we can't know for certain."

Heritage Foundation President Jim DeMint — a former congressman who submitted several bills to defund CPB — released a statement last month saying he was "delighted" with Mulvaney's OMB nomination.

Cole, meanwhile, has been singled out for praise by America's Public Television Stations. Last year, public TV's lobbying group presented its Champion of Public Broadcasting Award, an honor reserved for key advocates in Congress and state capitals, to the Oklahoma lawmaker. In announcing the award, APTS President Patrick Butler said Cole's "extraordinary leadership was instrumental in ensuring that the FY 2016 House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill included \$445 million in level funding for CPB — the first time in five years the House has proposed anything but a zero for public broadcasting."

APTS honored Vice President Michael Pence as a champion in 2014. As governor of Indiana, Pence restored state funding to public broadcasting, which had been zeroed-out of Indiana's budget for eight years.

Cole continues to support public broadcasting back home in Oklahoma as well. He listens to KGOU-FM from Norman every morning. "I'm really pleased to see the station expand into other areas," he said. "A lot of smaller communities like Ada and Seminole have not historically had service and now do."

Cole particularly enjoys listening to NPR's Morning Edition. "With public radio I can wake up without someone shouting at me," he noted.

NPR content "is informative and fair," Cole said. "I know some people disagree but if they'd listen to the content they'd likely come to another opinion."

He said NPR and PBS "both perform a valuable service. I support them both."