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DIGITAL TELEVISION CONVERSION UPDATE

Just before the stroke of midnight on Monday, September 30, the Jerome County Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously approved the last pre-construction permit for our new digital television service, KIPT-DT, Twin Falls, which will serve the Magic Valley area.

This is especially significant because it also marks the final permit for the federally mandated conversion of our statewide television network of five transmitters and network operations center.

As you've read in previous columns, the last four years of our mandated conversion have been invigorating and crucial to our future public service.

Here's a brief update:

- Treasure Valley (KAID-DT), Channel 21, began broadcasting full-time in September 2001.
- KISU-DT, Pocatello, Channel 17, should begin initial regular service in late October.
- KCDT-DT, Coeur d'Alene, Channel 45, should begin initial regular service in late October.
- KUID-DT, Moscow, Channel 12, should begin initial regular service by early April 2003. As you've read previously, we began broadcasting on analog Channel 35 in late September. This begins the multi-month transition of regular analog service from Channel 12 to Channel 35. If you receive KUID directly off-air try changing your Channel to 35. (This change should not affect those who get KUID off of cable or translators). Let us know what you think! The new digital television service on Channel 12 should be on in April 2003. Regular analog service on Channel 12 will cease at that time.
- KIPT-DT, Twin Falls, Channel 22, should begin broadcasting in February 2003.
- And finally, the technology that makes the programming of both your current analog service and the new digital service possible is undergoing a radical change that you probably won't notice. Our statewide network operations center is getting a complete digital update beginning in

early October with an eye towards taking advantage of digital efficiencies. What this means is that your analog signal will look a little better, and that on the new digital television service in your area you'll see both local and national programming at the time you expect them to be on. Behind the scenes, it means efficiency... among many updates we'll be able to record a program once, and play it across both the analog and digital systems.

The next step in the statewide digital conversion now moves to converting our statewide system of translators and base studio facilities in Moscow, Boise, the state Capitol and Pocatello to digital.

EFFECTS OF 3.5% HOLDBACK ON IDAHOPTV

Governor Kempthorne recently requested that state agencies outline the impact of the 3.5% hold-back of state general funds.

In short, IdahoPTV returned \$67,500 in state general funds. The effects on our budget were that our one time capital funds for our mandated conversion to digital television were reduced by

\$25,000. In addition, we reduced our one time General Fund Operating expense for digital television conversion by \$25,000. The impact of these reductions were mitigated by the award in September of a major competitive grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) that IdahoPTV received in collaboration with KUED/ University of Utah and KNPB/

Reno PBS for our digital conversion.

Finally, our on-going Operating Expenses were reduced by \$17,500. This will be accomplished by the reduction of on-going telecommunication costs, reduction of administration costs and other cost savings.

DIALOGUE WEIGHS THE PROS AND CONS OF PROPOSITION ONE

In the November 5 election, voters will make their decisions on Proposition One, the Indian gaming initiative.

DIALOGUE host Marcia Franklin was joined by Dave Matheson, CEO of the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Gaming Enterprises, Aaron Miles, Sr. of the Nez Perce Tribe, Senator Laird Noh (R-Kimberly) and David Robertson of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling to discuss the benefits and disadvantages of Proposition One.

DIALOGUE "Proposition One" aired on Idaho Public Television on Thursday, October 3 at 8:00/7:00 p.m. MT/PT. Franklin and guests also took calls from viewers on a toll-free line.

Governor Dirk Kempthorne negotiated compacts between the Nez Perce and Coeur d'Alene tribes to expand Indian gaming facilities on their reservations. Supporters filed the initiative in response to the Legislature's disapproval of those compacts.

Proposition One deals with the expansion and the legality of the gambling machines the tribes use.

Tribal members say Indian gaming is as legal as the state lottery and the income generated is necessary to their survival. But those opposing the initiative argue the machines are illegal because they allow a type of gambling that violates Idaho statutes; and they also fear tribes will put casinos off reservation land.

DIALOGUE LOOKS AT ISSUE OF TERM LIMITS

Limiting the number of times elected officials can run for office has caused a searing debate between supporters and opponents. On November 5, voters will decide whether or not to support legislative action eliminating term limits.

DIALOGUE host Joan Cartan-Hansen was joined by Don Morgan, chairman of Citizens for Term Limits; Larry Eastland, former Idaho GOP State Finance chair; Dan Chadwick, executive director for the Idaho Association of Counties; and Grant Loebs, Twin Falls

county prosecutor. The live call-in show aired on Idaho Public Television Thursday, October 10 at 8:00/7:00 p.m. MT/PT.

STATE CANDIDATES GO HEAD-TO-HEAD IN IDAHO DEBATES 2002

As voters prepare to cast ballots for state offices, Idaho Public Television continues the tradition of featuring candidates in debate about topics important to Idahoans in IDAHO DEBATES 2002. For more than two decades, IdahoPTV, the League of Women Voters of Idaho and the Idaho Press Club have brought the candidates before voters statewide via television. Eight debates are scheduled for candidates running in the November 5 election for Governor, Congress and other state offices.

IDAHO DEBATES 2002 kicks off with a debate between Governor Dirk Kempthorne (Republican) and Jerry Brady (Democrat) as they share their opinions, solutions and values with voters. The debate for Governor airs Thursday, October 17 at 8:00/7:00 p.m. MT/PT.

Joan Cartan-Hansen and Marica Franklin are hosts and modera-

tors for the eight IDAHO DEBATES 2002 programs.

Candidates answer questions posed by a panel of prominent journalists from newspapers and radio stations around the state. Idahoans may submit and suggest questions for the candidates at idahoptv.org (questions must be submitted in advance).

IdahoPTV also launches a special Election 2002 Web site (www.idahoptv.org/election2002). Live streaming video of the debates is posted at idahoptv.org and will be archived for later viewing. The site has various components, including relevant news articles and editorials, biographies, photographs and statements from candidates, information regarding voter registration and links to other Web resources.

Seven other debates are scheduled on IdahoPTV through October 27.

They are:

“Attorney General,” Friday, October 18 at 8:00 p.m. MT/PT

“Controller,” Friday, October 18 at 9:00 p.m. MT/PT

“Representative, Second Congressional District,” Sunday, October 20 at 7:00/6:00 p.m. MT/PT

“Representative, First Congressional District,” Monday, October 21 at 8:00 p.m. MT/PT

“Lieutenant Governor,” Tuesday, October 22 at 8:00 p.m. MT/PT

“Superintendent of Public Instruction,” Thursday, October 24 at 8:00/7:00 p.m. MT/PT

“U.S. Senate,” Sunday, October 27 at 7:00/6:00 p.m. MT/PT

IDAHO RHAPSODY SERENADES THE SPIRIT

Airs Sunday, November 10, 7:00/6:00 MT/PT

Coming in November, a new salute to the beauty and wonder of our state, IDAHO RHAPSODY combines breath-taking scenery of the Gem State with music performed by local artists.

This hour-long production captures the spirit of Idaho with a mosaic of sight and sound. The majestic beauty of Idaho unfolds as each scene is guided by melodies of many sorts — from the vocals of Beth Wilson and Cinde Borup to violin performances by Weiser Fiddle Festival champion

Danita Hartz and her husband Matt Hartz.

OUTDOOR IDAHO: HORSEWOMEN

Airs Thursday, October 31 at 8:00/7:00 p.m. MT/PT
Repeats Sunday, November 3 at 7:00/6:00 p.m. MT/PT

For some Idaho women, horses are a way of life — and work. They form a partnership, a team. This new OUTDOOR IDAHO focuses on three women and the horses they work with in horse racing, rodeo and outfitting.

Cammie Papinaw, a jockey at Les Bois Race Track, starts early in the morning exercising horses that run very fast, up to 35 miles per hour — and winning is a thrill every time it happens.

“I can’t say I know how to talk to horses, but I do know how to read ‘em a little bit,” Papinaw says. “They are just like a bunch of young children. Every horse has a different personality, every horse has a different way of doing things.”

Cherie Scrivner, Nampa, and her horses share a grueling routine of long drives, long waits and a few seconds of intense competition on the Women’s Professional Rodeo Association circuit. There is little money but many personal rewards on the search for the best barrel racing round.

“My mare that I’m runnin’, she’s one of my best friends, I love her, she’s made a lot of dreams for me that have always been a little bit out of reach come true and I owe her a lot,” Scrivner says.

Lani Mulick, her daughters and husband, are outfitters at Mackay. Her father was an outfitter and she was on the college rodeo circuit. Today, she and her daughters, care for a string of horses they ride and pack.

“These are horses that my family have had forever and so they’re like family — they are family. They’re like best friends,” Mulick says.

FAMILY STUDIES PROFESSOR, AUTHOR STEPHANIE COONTZ TALKED ON DIALOGUE ABOUT CHANGING FAMILIES

—Aired Thursday, September 19 at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT
—Repeated Sunday, September 22 at 5:30/4:30 p.m. MT/PT

Professor, researcher and author Stephanie Coontz appeared on DIALOGUE and discussed American family life, its history and evolving structures, and the pressures and decisions today’s family members face.

The professor of history and family studies at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, is the author of several books and professional publication research articles. She has appeared on national television discussing her research findings and books. Coontz is the author of *The Way We Never Were: American Families and the Nostalgia Trap*, *The Way We Really Are: Coming To*

Terms with America’s Changing Families, and *The Social Origins of Private Life: A History of American Families*.

Coontz joined DIALOGUE host Joan Cartan-Hansen to discuss her work, research and observations. They took phone calls from viewers on a toll free line affairs call-in program.

DIALOGUE FOR KIDS DISCUSSES BLOOD

— October 15 at 2:00/1:00 p.m. MT/PT, the series airs the third Tuesday of every month

DIALOGUE FOR KIDS this month features experts to answer student questions about blood and the vascular system. Doctors share information about the cells that make up blood, talk about

blood diseases, expound on the history of blood and explain what happens when humans bleed. Host Joan Cartan-Hansen is joined by Hematologist Dr. Emma Harwood and Medical Technician Jeanie Waag.

Cartan-Hansen and her guests take calls from students statewide on a toll-free line. Questions also may be sent in ad-

vance of air time by e-mail or by FAX. Additional information and links regarding blood on the World Wide Web can be found at the DIALOGUE FOR KIDS Web site (idahoptv.org/dialogue4kids/index.html). The broadcast program, in addition to being audio and video streamed live on the Web, also will remain available in the DIALOGUE FOR KIDS archive on the Web site.

ZOOM INTO ACTION ZIPS INTO SECOND SEASON PROFILING IDAHO STUDENT VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

Beginning again this winter on Fridays, 19 student volunteer projects will be featured on the national PBS series ZOOM, as part of a local-national project, "Zoom Into Action." Each state that is part of the national project features local students who organize

and participate in a variety of volunteer projects in that state.

Each Friday, IdahoPTV's "Zoom Into Action" segment highlights different Idaho students and their projects.

IdahoPTV and students from the University of Idaho School of Communications will produce the segments and select which projects to highlight.

PROFILE OF AUTHOR FRANK MCCOURT

A profile of FRANK MCCOURT, the Pulitzer Prize winning author of *Angela's Ashes*, aired on Idaho Public Television Wednesday, October 2 at 7:00 p.m. MT/PT.

The program airs in conjunction with McCourt's Idaho visit to speak at the Idaho Humanities Council's 2002 Humanities Lecture and Dinner, October 10, in Boise.

The television program is narrated with excerpts from his writings and comments from his brother, Malachy. To round out the video portrait, the educator-author discusses his first book's sequel, *'Tis*.

As a high school teacher for 30 years, the Irish-American McCourt inspired students to get in touch with their histories and

related stories of his own childhood to encourage them. At age 66, McCourt's own dream was realized with the publication of his prize-winning memoir.