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GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT



Ron Pisaneschi
GENERAL MANAGER

2D Barcode



Past GM
Reports

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Quotes

"PBS is what I watch and enjoy almost always. Rarely do I watch other channels. Thank you!" --Frances

"PBS is the greatest TV station. No commercials and a great monthly viewing of a variety of shows of all kinds. We Love it." --Chuck and Nancy



Festival Exceeds Goal

IdahoPTV exceeded its goal to raise \$1 million during Festival. With mail, on air, Web, and Festival sponsors, we ended the final night with \$1,045,273 and welcomed 1,163 new members. We had 398 people join our GEM (Give Every Month) sustainer program. Our most successful broadcast was the final episode of "Downton Abbey," which was responsible for more than \$40,000 in gifts. The most successful local production was *The Conquest of the Snake*, which brought in nearly \$20,000.

The Idaho DEBATES

Idaho's voters will have the opportunity to watch the top candidates in May's primary election as the state's political hopefuls meet and discuss the issues facing our state and nation.

IdahoPTV handles the production of the live, statewide election-year debates in collaboration with the Idaho Press Club and League of Women Voters of Idaho.

The schedule is as follows:

Sunday, May 1, at 7 p.m. "Republican 2nd Congressional District Candidates"
 Thursday, May 5, at 8 p.m. "Democrat 1st Congressional District Candidates"
 Friday, May 6, at 8 p.m. "Supreme Court Candidates"
 Sunday, May 8, at 7 p.m. "Republican 1st Congressional District Candidates"
 Friday, May 13, at 8 p.m. "Senate Constitutional Party Candidates"

Dates and times are tentative.



Continuing beyond the 2016 Legislature's adjournment, *Idaho Reports* will air as a half-hour weekly program that examines a variety of Idaho issues. The show airs through the end of May and then returns in the fall in the same format. In

January, *Idaho Reports* expands to an hour with the return of the Legislature. *Idaho Reports* airs Fridays at 8 p.m. and repeats Sundays at 10:30/9:30 a.m. MT/PT.

Awards

I'm pleased to announce Idaho Public Television was awarded three Bronzes at the Telly Awards last month. They were for:

Information — Outdoor Idaho "Idaho's Middle Earth"
 Travel/Tourism — Outdoor Idaho "Valley of the Tetons"
 Online Video-Education — Science Trek "Insects"



Congratulations to everyone associated with these three outstanding productions!

The Telly Awards is the premier award honoring outstanding local, regional, and cable TV commercials and programs, as well as the finest video and film productions. This is the 37th year of the Telly Awards.



I'm pleased to let you all know that at the April 1 Emmy event, we were nominated for 11 Emmy Awards, including Station Excellence.

Other nominations include:

Environmental Program/Special — *Outdoor Idaho* "Idaho Headwaters"
 Historical/Cultural Feature/Segment — My Father's Idaho
 Historical/Cultural Program/Special — *Outdoor Idaho* "The Frank"
 Health/Science Program/Special — *Science Trek* "Volcanoes"
 Health/Science Program/Special — *Outdoor Idaho* "Rockhounds"
 Informational/Instructional Program/Special — *Outdoor Idaho* "Idaho's Middle Earth"
 Documentary Topical — *Into Africa: The Idaho Gorongosa Connection*
 Director, Live or Recorded Live — *Journey to College* - Troy Shreve
 Writer Program — Bruce Reichert composite
 Photographer Program — *Outdoor Idaho* "Valley of the Teton" - Jay Krajic



The Emmy Awards Ceremony will be held June 4.

In the Community

Interactive Virtual Tours of the Idaho Capitol

In mid-March, IdahoPTV and the Idaho Afterschool Network hosted three interactive virtual tours of the Idaho Capitol to 38 students and teachers from Madison Junior High in Rexburg, Columbia Junior and Senior High in Nampa, and from After School Kids, Inc. in Riggins. Marie Hattaway, Director of the IAN, led the tours. Representative Andrus from Lava Hot Springs and Representative Crane from Nampa also participated.

March Iconic Idaho Photo Contest

Congrats to our March winners – Evan Jones, Scott DeHart, Flaviu R.G., Rick Ohnsman, Chris Oertel, and Kris Franklin. And thanks to this month's judges – Josh Packer, Gary Braach, Philip Kuntz, Dan O'Malley, Steve Glauner, Ken Miracle, and Nancy Whitt. We had some wonderful Honorable Mentions, too. You can see all the photos on the *Outdoor Idaho* Facebook page.



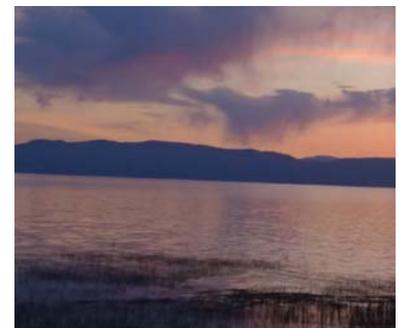
Our IdahoPTV Productions



"Bear Lake, Caribbean of the Rockies"

—Airs Thursday, April 28 at 8 p.m.

Bear Lake is a brilliant blue beauty on the Idaho-Utah border. Known as the Caribbean of the Rockies, it draws visitors from across the West to camp, fish, and feast on Bear Lake's famous raspberries. "It's beautiful," says David Longfellow, Bear Lake fisherman. "How could you not like something as gorgeous as Bear Lake?"



"Bear Lake, Caribbean of the Rockies" examines the challenges faced by those who manage this resource for recreation, irrigation, and generating electrical power. Bear Lake is a naturally formed lake, but the top 21 feet are a man-made reservoir, making it one of America's unique hybrids.

"We have many stakeholders we work with to make sure it stays pristine and blue and clean," says Connelly Baldwin, Rocky Mountain Power hydrologist. "We work hard to keep it that way."

"Bear Lake is a place I grew up with, and now my kids are growing up with it, too," says Kris Millgate, *Outdoor Idaho* producer. "When I started putting this show together, I worried about finding flare in something I'm so familiar with. Fortunately, I found that flare through the dedication of those who live at the lake I visit every summer."



—Airs Fridays at 7:30 p.m.

Dialogue presents two new interviews about international events that involved the United States: the 1973 coup in Chile and the Vietnam War.

In 1973, General Augusto Pinochet overthrew the government of Chile and for 17 years led a dictatorship under which thousands of Chileans were tortured or killed. On April 8, Judge Juan Guzmán discusses his controversial investigation of criminal claims filed against Pinochet by the relatives of those who disappeared.

On April 29, Marcia Franklin is joined by historian Fredrik Logevall who talks about how decisions made by American leaders before and during the Vietnam War still affect our country's foreign policy. Logevall, a Harvard professor of international affairs, won a Pulitzer in 2013 for his book *Embers of War*, which examines how and why the U.S. went to war in Vietnam.



“Horses”

—Airs April 19 at 2/1 p.m. MT/PT



Horses have played an important role in human history. There are more than 200 breeds worldwide. They come in many sizes – from the Shetland, which stands about four feet tall, to the Clydesdale, which can reach six feet in height.

Host Joan Cartan-Hansen is joined by Myron Amsden, president of the Idaho Quarter Horse Association; and Dr. Madison Seamans, an equine veterinarian, to answer questions from students.

Public Television in the News



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Idaho STEM Action Center awards 36 Family STEM Event Grants

BOISE, Idaho (March 23, 2016) — The Idaho STEM Action Center announced today that it has awarded grants up to \$1,000 each to 36 educational organizations throughout Idaho to support family friendly science, technology, engineering and math events in their communities.

The STEM Center received 44 applications and awarded 36 grants. Total funds awarded exceed \$34,000. This is the second round of grants the STEM Center has distributed. It awarded 23 pre-kindergarten-through-high school grants totaling more than \$48,000 in January to schools, libraries and such non-profit organizations as the Boys & Girls Clubs.

Conceived in the office of Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, the Idaho STEM Action Center was approved during the 2015 legislative session to help produce a competitive workforce by implementing K-through-career science, technology, engineering and math education programs aligned with industry needs.

During the 2016 session, the Idaho Legislature set the STEM Action Center's ongoing annual budget at \$2.4 million, appropriated \$2 million into a STEM Education Fund to help start up local STEM programs, and approved the addition of a computer science program manager to oversee the Computer Science Initiative.

"It's an exciting time to be involved in STEM education in Idaho," said Angela Hemingway, the STEM Action Center's executive director. "We're thrilled to be able to help three dozen organizations throughout the state implement innovative plans for engaging their families and communities in STEM-related activities with this latest round of grants.

"Events that get kids and families interested in STEM learning are critical to the STEM Action Center and to Idaho's long-term economic success," Hemingway said. "Bringing STEM awareness to students and families is essential to ensure that more Idahoans have the opportunity to experience hands-on, project-based STEM in their community. These STEM Events grants will allow families to engage with educators and industry while they have fun learning more about STEM in the community."

The grant recipients are listed below.

Ada Community Library's Hidden Springs and Lake Hazel branches (Boise)
Aberdeen Middle School (Aberdeen), Alameda Middle School (Pocatello)
Barbara Morgan STEM Academy (Meridian), Bear Lake County Library (Montpelier)
Burley Junior High School (Burley)
Canyon Elementary Science Magnet School (Cataldo)
Culdesac School (Culdesac)
Discovery Center of Idaho (Boise)
Dora Erickson Elementary (Idaho Falls)
Falcon Ridge Public Charter School (Kuna)
Fernan STEM Academy (Coeur d'Alene)
Garfield Elementary School (Boise)
Genesee Joint School #282 (Genesee)
Girl Scouts of Silver Sage Council (Boise)
Glenns Ferry Public Library (Glenns Ferry)
Hansen Elementary School (Hansen)
Heritage Middle School (Meridian)
Horizons' Lifestyle and Education Team and Valley County Astronomical Society collaboration (Cascade)
Idaho Public Television (Boise)
J. Russell Elementary School (Moscow)
Kuna Public Library (Kuna)
Marsing School District (Marsing)
Mentoring Youth Supporting Teens (McCall)
Mountain Lily Discovery Center (St. Maries)
North Bingham County District Library (Shelley)
Vision Charter School (Caldwell)

Parma Learning Center (Parma), Payette Children's Forest (McCall)
 Pepper Ridge Elementary (Boise)
 Sacajawea Elementary School (Caldwell)
 Snowdon Wildlife Sanctuary (McCall)
 Southside Elementary School (Cocolalla)
 UI STEM Access Upward Bound (Moscow)
 Syringa Middle School (Caldwell)

Idaho Public Television is proud to have such a talented and dedicated staff. Our political reporters have been in the national spotlight lately. Melissa Davlin was featured on MSNBC, Seth Ogilvie was quoted in *Atlantic Magazine*, and Aaron Kunz is currently working on a nuclear energy program that is scheduled for a nationwide audience this year.



The Atlantic

Seeing Cruz take Idaho reminds me of a discussion I read recently between two reporters with public-television program Idaho Reports. In a blog post, they detailed the very different rallies Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz held in Idaho over the weekend, and explained how Cruz's embrace of the "outsider mantle" stood out.

"Trump has been winning as a political outsider," reporter Seth Ogilvie said. "In the Nevada caucus, a western state with a few parallels to Idaho (I'm thinking lands, water, and Second Amendment issues) six in 10 caucus-goers wanted an outsider, and the caucus went to Trump." Fast-forward a few weeks, and Cruz projected himself as an outsider on Saturday. "He mentioned federal lands and the Second Amendment, citing specific western examples, and he separated himself from the Idaho establishment."

Former Migrant Worker Now Rising Opera Star

By Karen Bossick

March 4, 2016

RUPERT • She took her first step toward the Metropolitan Opera hoeing sugar beets on a farm near Rupert.

Now, soprano Cecilia Violetta Lopez sings leading roles on opera stages throughout the world.

TIMES-NEWS
 magicvalley.com



She recently came home to Idaho where she performed the role of the courtesan Violetta in Verdi's popular opera "La Traviata." She will be interviewed by Marcia Franklin on Dialogue at 7:30 p.m. Friday on Idaho Public Television.

"She moved the audience to tears," Sun Valley Opera Co-Founder Frank Meyer said. "The audience was in awe of her talent. It was a love story based on true events so it had to have excellent singing and believable acting. And many arts patrons are still talking about her performance. It is not surprising that she is on the Metropolitan Opera roster."

Born in Rupert to migrant farm workers, Lopez worked alongside her parents hoeing beets to earn extra income for the family in the summers. To make the time go faster, her mother would sing ranchera, or mariachi songs.

"We worked long hours in hot and cold weather. It was during those long hours where my mother planted the musical seed in me and taught me and my older brother songs that she knew and grew up with," Lopez said. "My mother had no formal musical training but I can proudly say that I looked up to her back then for being a beautiful, wise and strong woman and for being so knowledgeable about music."

As Lopez grew older, her mother volunteered her to sing at rodeos, weddings and quinceanera parties, both in the Magic Valley and in Mexico.

Her parents also bought her a tiny organ keyboard at a second-hand store. She took lessons but she also demonstrated a talent for playing tunes by ear.

She attended the University of Nevada in Las Vegas, planning to study music education but became fascinated with the operatic repertoire and the science behind the operatic voice.

"Having a career in opera was not something I aimed for as a child. In fact, my first experience with opera was watching soprano icon Beverly Sills on 'Sesame Street,' which I watched to learn English," Lopez said. "At the time, I remember thinking the singing was a little strange but never thought about it again. But in college I became fascinated with it and was accepted into the vocal performance program."

The road from college to stage appears to have been paved in gold.

Lopez has been named one of opera's 25 rising stars" by Opera News. She made what critics called a "sensational" Opera Idaho debut as Gilda in last season's "Rigoletto."

And earlier she performed Violetta in "La Traviata" at Prelude to Performance in New York City. That performance earned her the 2014 Star-making Performances award from the second annual Excellence in Opera ("Freddie") Awards.

Her performance "is among the loveliest I have witnessed on any staged," applauded a critic for the New York Observer.

Following her New York City debut in "La Traviata," Lopez went on to join the Metropolitan Opera for its production of "The Merry Widow," took her Violetta to Virginia Opera and joined the Bard SummerScape Festival for De Falla's "El Retablo de Maese Pedro."

She also was an international quarterfinalist in Placido Domingo's Operalia Competition in 2014 and won first place and the Audience Favorite Award in the 2014 Irene Dalis Competition.

"She's a sweetheart to work with," said Fernando Menendez, marketing and education manager for Opera Idaho. "She has an amazing talent, an amazing voice. Watching her perform — she makes it seem so effortless. She doesn't have to think about the character. It just comes out. Even when she's singing the softer more melancholic aria, you can feel what she is feeling."

On face value, mariachi music may not evoke thoughts of opera. But the two musical forms do have a lot in common, Lopez said.

Both feature songs of old — some talking about love; others, unrequited love. Like opera, corridos tell a fictional or non-fictional story about historical figures, or even horses or vehicles.

"Opera crosses with ranchera or mariachi music in the storytelling aspect," she said. "People who are not exposed to opera often assume opera consists of large people singing nonsense words on a stage oftentimes wearing a horned hat. I want everyone to know that is not the case. Opera is similar to a Latin telenovela. Operatic story lines are full of passion and love. Some show hate, jealousy, murder, betrayal, sacrifice. And some are comical."

Lopez's father Jose Luis "Penny" Lopez still works on the farms in Rupert. Her mother Maria, owns and operates her own restaurant there called Loncheria El 20. She wakes up at 4:30 a.m. to make fresh tortillas and prep tomatoes for the day's salsa.

It took awhile for her parents to understand her career. But they can relate to "Madame Butterfly" very easily, Lopez said.

"The story of Cio-Cio San, her sacrifice of being left behind and raising her son on her own while waiting for the person she loves is what helped my family gain an appreciation for the storytelling-art form. I also got the opportunity to show my mother the rehearsal process for 'Madama Butterfly' so she could witness firsthand the work that goes on before a show goes to the actual stage.

"That's when she told me, 'This is a job. You work long hours every day for this one show.' After my final performance of 'Madama Butterfly,' my father who never speaks English to us, said, 'I'm so proud of you,' in the thickest Mexican accent anyone has ever heard. Moments like those replay in my mind often and they are some of the many things that I keep with me that help keep me moving forward."

Today, Lopez lives in Las Vegas where she can often be found studying a couple of roles simultaneously.

"I travel a lot for work, as opera companies exist worldwide. But, when I'm home, I certainly enjoy being a mother to my beautiful daughter," she said. "Society forgets that opera singers are, first and foremost, human. There are a lot of us opera singers who are also parents. And I'm sure I speak for all of my colleagues when I say we wouldn't have it any other way."



'Outdoor Idaho' delivers, documents some dream adventures

"Outdoor Idaho," Idaho Public Television's show about the outdoors, documented eight "excellent adventures" for its latest show, which airs at 8 p.m. March 10 and 7 p.m. March 20. Here's a sneak peek.

March 3, 2016

BY CHADD CRIPE

Tim Coldsnow always wanted to go skiing in the backcountry.

Vicki Lord always wanted to communicate with animals.



Both were among eight people who experienced their “excellent adventures” as part of the latest episode from “Outdoor Idaho.”

“My Excellent Adventure” debuts at 8 p.m. Thursday (March 10). Some of the stories stemmed from a Facebook solicit from the show asking people for their dream excursions.

Lord, of Meridian, said filming the show added another layer to her adventure. Outdoor Idaho connected her with world champion elk caller Corey Jacobsen for a lesson, took her to an elk ranch and accompanied her for two trips to call wild elk.

The process spanned several months.

“It was very entertaining,” Lord said. “The adventure of life partly is the people you come across as you move through life. I’m just here to call the elk and I’ve got my entourage.”

On her second trip into the mountains, she was able to call elk that were as close as 10 to 15 yards away. On her first trip, the elk were much farther away but still responded to her calls.

“I was really intrigued (as a kid) with this idea you could call in animals,” she said. “I never had done it in the real world. I’m not a hunter. I still think it’s neat that you could communicate with these animals.”

Coldsnow moved away from Boise for 22 years and has been back for five years. He’s an avid skier who likes powder but never had ventured into the backcountry. He went cat skiing at Brundage Mountain for his part in the show. His son, Billy, joined him as a snowboarder.

“It’d been on my bucket list for a long time,” Coldsnow said. “... It was awesome. I can’t wait to do it again. (The show) definitely sparked me to get going. ... We’ll make a point of going at least once a year, if not more often.”



Other adventures in the show involve backpacking in the Sawtooths, climbing Borah, whitewater rafting on the Payette, visiting ghost towns, floating the Middle Fork of the Salmon River and a grandmother-granddaughter bike ride on the Weiser River Trail.



Major milestones mark ‘Downton Abbey’ finale

Embargoed until 10:40 p.m. ET on Mon., March 7

Downton Abbey, the top-rated PBS drama and that became a cultural phenomenon, ended its six-season run Sunday with an array of beginnings: a wedding, a birth, a pregnancy and budding relationships, both personal and professional.

As the curtain fell on life at the English estate, star-crossed Anna (Joanne Froggatt) and Mr. Bates (Brendan Coyle) became parents; Lady Mary (Michelle Dockery) revealed her pregnancy; her husband, Henry (Matthew Goode), and Tom (Allen Leech) opened an auto dealership; Isobel (Penelope Wilton) and Dickie (Douglas Reith) found a life together; and Thomas Barrow (Robert James-Collier) formed a butler’s bond with the ailing Mr. Carson (Jim Carter).



But the Masterpiece on PBS series' most-welcome arrival may have been happiness for the ever-disappointed Lady Edith (Laura Carmichael), who married Bertie (Harry Hadden-Paton), the 7th Marquess of Hexham, moving past her family members in social ranking and wealth.

"There would have been an outcry if she hadn't" had a happy ending, says Carmichael, now appearing with Uzo Aduba on the London stage in *The Maids*. In the United Kingdom, "the finale aired on Christmas Day. I was getting a lot of text messages from people delighted at the end of Christmas Day to see her in a white dress."

The Edith-Bertie reunion was secretly set up by her sister Mary, who helped drive the couple apart in the previous penultimate episode by revealing that Marigold is Edith's out-of-wedlock daughter.

"It's not the great mass apology. It's quietly done, Mary not wanting to lose face. But you can see she does feel terrible about what's happened," Carmichael says. After marrying Henry, "Mary is in a better place to extend an olive branch."

Downton creator and writer Julian Fellowes wanted a triumphant outcome for Edith, the middle Crawley sister between Mary and the late Lady Sybil (Jessica Brown Findlay).

"That seemed the right thing after all she had gone through. In a way, her journey was the journey of adjustment her class had to make. She was more resilient in many ways than Mary and as advanced, by the end, as Sybil had been," he says.

That Edith ends up surpassing family members in social ranking and wealth "is a brilliant Julian wink to the audience," Carmichael says. "He gives her a phenomenally happy circumstance to end up in."

Change — in women's roles, class relationships, educational opportunities, technology and transportation — marked the tumultuous times of Downton's tumultuous times, which spanned the period from began in 1912 to and finish in 1925. It threatens the servants' jobs and the future of the Crawleys' upstairs-downstairs family. But it also presents, but opportunity also avails.

"We see the positivity of education. We see how it improved Daisy's lot and how Molesley is now seeing it in his own future as a schoolteacher," executive producer Gareth Neame says.

Not everyone embraces moving forward: , as Regal matriarch Violet (Maggie Smith), in the series' final bit of dialogue, regrets not being able to remain in the past: "If only we had the choice."

Says Neame: "It seemed absolutely appropriate that Maggie Smith's character should have the final word." Neame says.

The Crawleys and their staff are generally in good stead as they say goodbye, at least for now. temporarily (No spinoffs are planned, but executive producers and cast members say they're interested in making a feature film, if schedules allow.)

"I wanted a warm ending and not to make anyone unhappy. We'd done that" with earlier tragedies, Fellowes says. "I wanted (viewers) to reach for their handkerchiefs in appreciation ... and sorrow to be passing, not because something ghastly had happened."