



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Boise KAID-TV 4

Coeur d'Alene KCDD-TV 26

Moscow KUID-TV 12

Pocatello KISU-TV 10

Twin Falls KIPT-TV 13

2D Barcode



Past GM Reports

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Quotes

"Idaho Public Television is a wonderful contribution and gift to our community. Thank you." – Kevin

"The PBS travel shows have inspired my husband and me to travel the world over the last 15 years." – Terri

IdahoPTV thanks our sponsors, friends and companies whose generosity helped make Idaho Public Television's Festival 2018 a success.



In April, Idaho Public Television begins to air *The Idaho Debates*, featuring primary candidates for Idaho's statewide and congressional offices. This year's primary races include governor, lieutenant governor, 1st Congressional District, treasurer, and superintendent of public instruction.

The following debates have been scheduled to air on IdahoPTV but may change due to candidate participation. Check listings at idahoptv.org/schedules for times and dates of additional debates. After they air, the debates will be available for streaming online at idahoptv.org/elections.

- April 17 at 7 p.m. – Republican Lieutenant Governor Candidates
- April 19 at 8:30 p.m. – Republican Treasurer Candidates
- April 22 at 7 p.m. – Democrat Governor Candidates
- April 23 at 8 p.m. – Republican Governor Candidates
- April 26 at 8 p.m. – Democrat Superintendent of Public Instruction Candidates
- April 27 at 8 p.m. – Republican Superintendent of Public Instruction Candidates
- April 29 at 6:30 p.m. – Republican 1st Congressional District Candidates

The Idaho Debates is a partnership with the Idaho Press Club, Boise State University's School of Public Service, University of Idaho's McClure Center, Idaho State University's School of Political Science, and the League of Women Voters' Voter Education Fund.

State Funding Update

Idaho Public Television's FY19 budget has now passed both the House and Senate and is signed by the Governor.

From state funds, the appropriation includes \$500,000 to replace aging equipment (\$400,000 for the digital microwave to get our signal from Boise to other parts of the state – second of three equal requests, \$20,000 for rewiring of the Boise station building for data, and \$80,000 for a SAN system to replace numerous servers). It also includes authorization and state funding for a new engineering position to help with all the work brought on by the spectrum auction and resulting channel changes that will impact our Coeur d'Alene transmitter and nearly 25 translators around the state. Again this year the state covered the cost of 3 percent raises for all classified employees. It also includes a two-month insurance premium holiday for employees.

The legislature also gave us authority to hire two additional staff for *Idaho Experience* and one additional staff for *American Graduate* using private grants. And they gave us spending authority to pay for equipment for the Coeur d'Alene transmitter using proceeds from the FCC spectrum auction.

Federal Funding Update

The Senate recently joined the House in approving legislation that combines all of the individual Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 federal appropriations into one spending bill. And, the legislation was just signed by the president.

The bill provides \$445 million for the two-year advance for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) in FY 2020, \$27.7 million for Ready To Learn, and \$20 million for a new annual public broadcasting interconnection and infrastructure account.

The bill also provides the much needed increase to the broadcaster repacking fund, which will cover the anticipated shortfall in the fund for both public and commercial broadcasters.

APTS president and CEO Patrick Butler issued a statement praising the legislation and noting, "The broad support for public media funding among both Republican and Democratic Members of the House and Senate reflects the overwhelming support the American people have consistently given to our service in communities across the country, and we couldn't be more proud of this substantial vote of confidence in our work."



Idaho Teacher Paige Somoza Named PBS Digital Innovator All-Star

Idaho Public Television is excited to announce that Paige Somoza, a teacher at Boise's Riverglen Junior High School, has been selected as part of the inaugural PBS Digital Innovator All-Star Program. Somoza is one of 30 educators from across the country chosen for this honor.

Each of the Digital Innovator All-Stars was selected from a cohort of extraordinary educators who are doing innovative work in their schools and districts, and were previously recognized as part of the PBS Digital Innovator Program, which began in 2013. The PBS Digital Innovator All-Star program expands on this influential work, deepening these educators' roles as leaders in integrating technology and digital media into the classroom — supporting students' learning through increasingly important media literacy skills.

“Paige is a very innovative educator who works hard to bring the world to her classroom,” says IdahoPTV teacher ambassador Kari Wardle. “Her students experience virtual field trips to places such as the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, and through the use of virtual reality (VR) have visited places such as Tiananmen Square in China. She spends countless hours attending conferences and researching in order to better her practice and discover new ways to help her students experience a world they would not otherwise know! Not only does Paige provide amazing learning experiences for her students, but she’s also an asset to the teachers in her district and throughout Idaho. She acted as a mentor in helping Marsing Elementary delve into the world of VR, worked numerous hours with PBS to design resources for a virtual classroom series around *The Vietnam War* with Ken Burns, and partnered with us at IdahoPTV to host an in-person and online screening of the Ken Burns documentary for teachers.”

In partnership with Idaho Public Television, Somoza will spend the 2018-2019 school year deepening engagement among students, families, educators, schools and IdahoPTV education staff. As an exclusive part of the program, Somoza will have access to virtual and in-person events, including the PBS Digital Innovator All-Star Summit, to connect and learn with peers and station representatives from across the country.

The PBS Digital Innovator All-Stars were chosen based on a variety of criteria, including passion for their role as an educator, outcomes from their time as PBS Digital Innovators, connections to their communities and service to under-resourced families.

Last year Somoza was featured in an Idaho Public Television video demonstrating her use of VR and resources from PBS Learning Media in the classroom to enhance her students’ learning experience.

Exploration and discovery are the goals in Paige’s classroom. She aims to help her students develop a multi-perspective view of the world and believes that starts with how they learn. A proponent of project-based learning, Paige encourages student creativity and choice, and believes these are important skills that will serve students as 21st century problem solvers. For Paige, quality public education includes equity of access. Taking students virtually somewhere they would not normally be able to go allows for a deeper understanding and an enriched learning experience.

In the Community

“Titans” Screening Celebrates Harry Magnuson’s Legacy in Wallace

Idaho Public Television invites the public to attend a free screening of “Titans,” the premiere episode of *Idaho Experience*. The screening will be held Friday, May 11, at 7:30 p.m. at the Sixth Street Melodrama and Theater in Wallace, Idaho. The event is free and open to the public.

About “Titans” — There was a time when Joe Albertson had his first grocery store, when mining magnate Harry Magnuson was unsure about his future. Making it big in business means taking risks and putting everything on the line. But is success about more than just making money? These Idaho titans of industry are rags-to-riches stories that some people think they know — but there is more to them than you might think.



“When I set out to make this program, I didn’t know what to expect,” says producer Aaron Kunz. “But sitting down with family members, historians, and friends of Idaho’s titans, I learned that making money was just a small part of who they are. Many of these titans had to give back to Idaho and their community; it was built into their DNA. I hope when you watch this program you’ll see these recognizable names in a whole new way.”

“Engaged communities like Wallace and energetic residents like John Magnuson are two of the reasons this new series, *Idaho Experience*, is so important for our state,” says producer Jeff Tucker. “Viewers seem hungry to learn about how they fit into our collective past and how they can help shape our future.”



Media Literacy and Civic Engagement in the Digital Age

Boise State University – Wednesday, April 11

Student Union Building, Jordan Ballroom

Event is free and open to the public.

The National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE) and Boise State University's Idaho Media Initiative are hosting a free day long event bringing together journalists, students and educators to discuss journalism and media literacy in today’s world. This is the first in a series of university hosted events designed by NAMLE to launch honest, constructive discussions exploring the intersections between journalism, media literacy and student voice.

How can journalists and educators work together to move beyond “fake news” to a more comprehensive discussion about news and information? What do students need to understand the news and participate as active citizens in today’s world? Those are just two of the questions that will be explored during this day-long event for journalists, students, teachers and anyone interested in media literacy. IdahoPTV Teacher Ambassador Kari Wardle will be one of an impressive list of speakers.



Kids of all ages are invited to explore science, technology, engineering and math with fun, hands-on STEM projects at the iExploreSTEM Festival.

This afternoon of learning takes place Saturday, April 14, from noon to 4 p.m. at Mountain Life Church in McCall (14180 Highway 55, McCall, Idaho 83638). The festival is free and open to the public. No registration is needed.

Regional professionals in STEM education will give demonstrations, lead science experiments, and offer many engaging projects for kids to make and take home.

Education staff from Idaho Public Television will be on hand with STEM information and an activity called Balance Magic.

For more information visit iExploreSTEM.org. To find out more about IdahoPTV’s resources for teachers and home-schoolers, follow IdahoPTV Educates on Facebook: facebook.com/idahoptved.

Education Outreach

Upcoming Events in April:

- 3 & 4 – Preschool story time and STEM activity at the Madison Public Library in Rexburg at 10:30 a.m.
 4 – Kids Club STEM activity at the American Falls Public Library at 1:30 p.m.
 13 – Story time and STEM activity at Homedale Public Library at 10:15 a.m.



IdahoPTV In the News

The following newspapers ran this opinion letter:



Jeff Fox and Michelle Britton
 Mar 2, 2018

Once again, the Trump administration has proposed drastic cuts to public media. The president's 2019 plan proposes to fund the Corporation for Public Broadcasting at \$15 million, a 97 percent reduction.

Idaho Public Television has an annual budget of \$9 million, of which \$1.5 million is allocated from the Corporation for Public Broadcast. In all, \$3 million comes from the state general fund, and the balance of about \$4.5 million comes from contributions from Idaho residents and from grants. Under the president's proposed budget, Idaho's public TV station would lose \$1.5 million of base funding, weakening the sustainability of IdahoPTV as we know it. What are we risking?



Jeff Fox

Michelle Britton

IdahoPTV supports Idaho's citizens in significant ways.

It reaches nearly 100 percent of Idaho's population, even its rural areas that have minimal connectivity. It is often the most-watched PBS station per capita in the nation, with approximately 450,000 weekly viewers. That's 27 percent of Idaho's population.

IdahoPTV is one of the most efficient and effective educational resources, serving schools from rural to urban settings with programming keyed to state curriculum. There are more than 200,000 free resources available for Idaho's public, private and home-school teachers and students at all levels from preschool to high school.

The station has also implemented an array of educational outreach activities for children in local communities, especially in rural areas, with STEM camps, coding workshops and events at public libraries. Idaho public school teachers are benefiting from IdahoPTV-led instruction in the use of technology in classrooms. The station, the Friends of Idaho Public Television (a fundraising arm of IdahoPTV), and key private financial sponsors have made a strong commitment to support education.

IdahoPTV, through PBS, provides top-notch entertainment, bringing the world to Idaho. In addition, PBS news programming offers balanced presentations of statewide and nationally important events.

But no less important are IdahoPTV's award-winning programs like Idaho Reports and Idaho in Session, focusing on Idaho topics. Outdoor Idaho, one of the longest-running shows, is also one of the most watched. Idahoans learn about the state's amazing outdoor diversity that influences local culture and economies.

Friends members represent all parts of the state. While Idaho may seem homogenous, our cultural, economic and social perspectives across the state are quite different because they have evolved over time largely from the influence of diverse regional landscapes and resources.

The Friends directors have come to know and love Idaho and are proud to be Idahoans in part because of what we have learned from our public TV station. We Idahoans understand the needs of Idaho, we govern and we are good citizens because we know our state. We would assert that this same identification with our country and appreciation for it grows from PBS programming.

In 2016, the station received 55 national and regional awards, one Emmy Award, and seven Emmy nominations.

Without a doubt, our station strongly supports education and provides quality content and outreach so that all Idahoans become lifelong learners and better citizens.

Originally, Idaho's moniker, "the Gem State," referred to the variety of gemstones natural to our geography. In broad contemporary terms, Idaho is known as the Gem State for our landscape, our resources, and our recreation.

On behalf of the Friends of Idaho Public Television, we believe one of our state's most precious gems is our public television station, Idaho Public Television. It's vitally important that funding continue for it at its current levels.

Jeff Fox is the current president and Michelle Britton is past president of Friends of Idaho Public Television.