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PUBLIC  
TELEVISION  
idahoptv.org

# GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT



**Ron Pisaneschi**  
GENERAL MANAGER

## 2D Barcode



Past GM  
Reports

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## Quote

"I moved from Idaho (native of Hagerman) to Illinois in 1982 when I got married. Your site and especially the Iconic Idaho photo winners keeps me connected with my home state and gives me tons of enjoyment! Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!" --Linda



Festival begins Friday, March 4, with a number of terrific local and national productions.

"Is there an adventure that you've always wanted to experience?" That's the question *Outdoor Idaho* posed to our Facebook friends in 2015. The result is an hour-long program called "My Excellent Adventure," a collection of eight adventure stories that take viewers to some of Idaho's best loved areas. From independent producer Andrew Vawser comes *Conquest of the Snake* about the settlement and development of the Magic Valley.



Music has always been a highlight of FESTIVAL, and this year is no exception. Look for a new performance biography of Loretta Lynn from *American Masters*; a new Eric Clapton concert, *Slowhand at 70 – Live at the Royal Albert Hall*; a new Celtic Woman concert, "Destiny"; a special from the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, "50 Years and Circlin' Back"; a new Yanni special, "Live at the Great Pyramids: The Dream Concert"; a new Celtic Thunder concert, "Legacy"; and a terrific new Andrea Bocelli concert, "Cinema," from *Great Performances*.

Drama lovers will enjoy the final episode of the wildly popular "Downton Abbey" on *Masterpiece* as well as the BAFTA celebration of the series. We'll also have the newest episodes of *Doc Martin*.



## March 6 “Downton Abbey” at the Village Cinema

On Sunday, March 6, at 2 p.m. IdahoPTV will host a “Downton Abbey” finale party at the Village Cinema in Meridian. Registrations will be taken online beginning February 9 at [idahoptv.org](http://idahoptv.org).



## IdahoPTV’s Presentations to Legislative Committees

On Friday, January 29, IdahoPTV made its annual budget presentation to the Joint Finance – Appropriations Committee. Ron Pisaneschi gave the committee an overview of the agency, reviewed the governor’s FY17 budget recommendation, and presented an impact assessment as requested by JFAC.

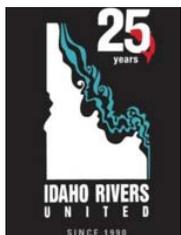
Ron has been asked to make a presentation to the Senate Education Committee on February 11 at 3 p.m. in room WW55.

## In the Community

On January 12, Jeff Tucker and Ron Pisaneschi made a presentation to the Idaho Historical Society’s Friends of the Museum group on Idaho Public Television’s 50 year history. They showed video clips and recounted major landmarks in the stations’ history. Approximately 30 people attended the event.



On January 20, the Idaho Cable Telecommunications Association hosted a dinner for the legislators. Idaho Public Television was invited to attend and was asked provide video for the event.



Idaho Rivers United invited Bruce Reichert to speak at the Boise River Community Lecture on January 26 at the Garden City Library. There were more than 90 people in attendance. The group was showed several video segments from the *Outdoor Idaho* “Idaho Headwaters” program, including the segments on the Salmon, Selway, and Boise headwaters.

As a member of the Idaho State Broadcasters Association, we will be participating in the annual legislative reception on February 9.



## Staff Updates

We are pleased to welcome three new staff members with existing Idaho Public Television connections to our full-time staff.



Cindy Lunte previously worked for IdahoPTV for seven years as a part-time grant writer. She also organized several educational outreach initiatives including the regional PBS Kids Writers Contest ceremonies and the overnight Science Trek Camp at the Idaho Museum of Natural History. Cindy was recently hired as a full-time education specialist. In this position Cindy will oversee all educational efforts of our local productions as well as work with PBS to promote the use of PBS' educational offerings in schools in our state. She will work closely with the Idaho State Department of Education as well as other educational and local organizations and institutions.

Jeanne Gayler has worked part time in our Moscow office since 2002, assisting the education specialist and overseeing the front office. On February 1, she will begin working as a full-time programming assistant. She will work closely with the programming department to ensure programming on all four channels offered to our viewers runs as scheduled. Jeanne will continue to work out of the Moscow office, where the time difference allows us to have on-site assistance for an additional hour each weekday.



Teri Tate McColly has worked with Idaho Public Television for many years providing voiceovers for programs. She comes to us with several years in development for a statewide non-profit, as well as previous experience as on-air radio talent and as an advertising account executive. On February 1, Teri will begin working in our development department, utilizing her many talents to help grow the list of supportive underwriting sponsors throughout the state of Idaho.

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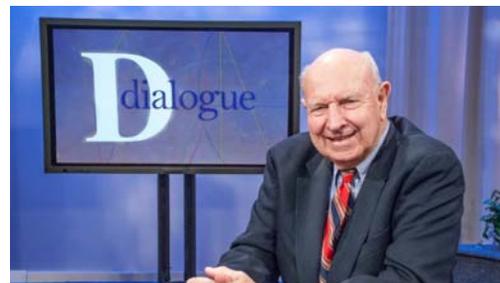
## Our IdahoPTV Productions



### **"Ambassador Thomas Pickering"**

—Airs Friday, February 12, at 7:30 p.m. MT/PT

Host Marcia Franklin discusses global political and economic affairs with former Ambassador Thomas Pickering, who holds the rank of Career Ambassador, the highest rank in the U.S. Foreign Service. Pickering served as the U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Jordan and the Russian Federation, among other roles. In 2012 he helped lead a State Department-sponsored panel investigating the attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya.





### **“An Innocent Man”**

—Airs Friday, February 19, at 7:30 p.m.

Host Marcia Franklin interviews a lawyer who believes America’s legal system is strangling what’s best about our country. Philip K. Howard, an attorney based in New York City, is the author of books about legal reform, including *The Death of Common Sense* and *Life Without Lawyers*. Franklin talks with Howard about his philosophy and the changes he’d like to see in the country’s legislative, executive and judicial branches.



### **“Five Senses”**

—Airs Tuesday, February 16, at 2/1 p.m. MT/PT



Sight, hearing, touch, smell, taste — these are your five senses. You learn about the world and how to live safely thanks to them. How do your five senses all work? What do they have in common? What happens when something goes wrong with one of them?

Host Joan Cartan-Hansen and her guests, pediatricians Dr. Naya Antink and Dr. Bradley Bishop with Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, answer students’ questions about the Five Senses.

Students can watch *Science Trek* over the air or on the show’s website. They can email questions to [sciencetrek@idahoptv.org](mailto:sciencetrek@idahoptv.org) or submit video questions recorded on their smartphones or webcams. Students who send in a question are eligible to win prizes for their classroom.

The *Science Trek* website offers facts, links, reading lists, a glossary, podcasts of programs, video shorts, full episodes, and special Web-exclusive programming: [idahoptv.org/sciencetrek](http://idahoptv.org/sciencetrek).

## **IdahoPTV in the News**



### **FCC declines PTV’s request for protection of translators Decision includes pledge to assist those displaced by auction**

By Doug Halonen  
January 11, 2016

The FCC has rejected a request by pubcasters to prioritize and protect public TV translators during this spring’s spectrum auction.

Translators are essentially low-powered TV stations used to rebroadcast a full-power station’s signals to otherwise unreachable areas. Survival of some of public TV’s more than 550 translators is in question because rules that the FCC adopted in 2014 do not protect their licensees’ rights to continue broadcasting after the auction ends.

The rules do offer a full range of protections for full-power commercial and noncommercial TV stations, clearing the way for full-power broadcasters to sell spectrum in an auction that is widely expected to raise tens of billions of dollars. Broadcasters will sell spectrum to the FCC, which will in turn sell it for use by smartphones and other wireless services.

Also under the FCC's rules, full-power stations that sit out the auction are guaranteed access to new channels if the agency needs their spectrum in the auction's wake. In addition, the FCC is required to reimburse costs to any full-power stations forced to move to different channels after the auction.

But broadcasters operating the more than 3,500 TV translators in the U.S. received no similar assurances. Like the estimated 2,000 low-power stations that the FCC declined to protect, translator operators may not be able to find new channel space after the auction is over.

In an effort to protect public TV's universal coverage, public broadcasters urged the FCC to prioritize their translators over those operated by commercial broadcasters and LPTV stations in the event that the FCC needs more channels to meet its clearance targets.

But in a unanimous decision released last month, the FCC rejected public broadcasting's call for special treatment, in part on technical grounds.

"We do not license translators on an NCE (noncommercial educational) basis, as APTS/PBS/CPB suggest, thus we have no reliable means to distinguish such translators in determining when to apply the priority," the FCC said in its order, referring to comments filed jointly by PBS, CPB and the Association of Public Television Stations.

Idaho Public Television G.M. Ron Pisaneschi expressed disappointment in the FCC's decision. The state network operates five full-power TV stations and 49 translators to deliver service across Idaho.

"It is hard for me to see how the FCC is going to clear enough spectrum in Idaho without turning off translators," Pisaneschi said. "Based on what open frequencies are currently available, I don't know how some areas won't go dark."



Demand for spectrum could force Idaho PTV to shut down some of the 49 translators in its extensive statewide network, Pisaneschi said.

However, John Crigler, a communications attorney with the law firm Garvey Schubert Barer, said commercial broadcasters would have been upset if the FCC had favored publiccasters.

Though the FCC order rejects public broadcasting's request for preferential treatment, Crigler said, it also includes assurances that the agency will try to help translator and LPTV licensees displaced by the auction find new channels. The agency also cleared the way for LPTV and translator licensees to share their channel capacity.

"The FCC is really trying to help," Crigler said. "These are positive opportunities."

Also in its order, the FCC postponed a requirement that all LPTV stations and translators convert from analog to digital transmission technology until 51 months after the auction is over. The original transition date, which the agency previously put on hold, was Sept. 1, 2015.

In a statement, APTS President Patrick Butler said: "While we remain concerned that many of our viewers may be left without public television service if the more than 600 translators on which rural areas depend are not effectively protected in this auction process, we are pleased that the FCC has been responsive to our concerns on this important issue, and we look forward to working with the commissioners and staff toward a successful resolution of these remaining issues."