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YEARSIDAHO
PUBLIC
TELEVISION
idahoptv.org

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT



Ron Pisaneschi
GENERAL MANAGER

2D Barcode



Past GM
Reports

Inside this issue:

- Quotes, *Page 1*
- DecemberFest, *Page 1*
- State of the State and Budget Address 2016, *Page 1*
- *Idaho Reports*, *Page 1*
- Idaho In Session, *Page 2*
- Federal Funding Update, *Page 2*
- In the Community, *Page 2*
- Our IdahoPTV Productions, *Page 3*
- IdahoPTV in the News, *Page 3*

Quotes

"I watch PBS NewsHour every day....Masterpiece is also a favorite and I also watch many shows on the World Channel. Thanks for my quality television viewing." –Barbara

"We like the variety and in depth programs on all the IPTV stations." –Alan and Maryanne

DecemberFest was a very successful fundraising event for Idaho Public Television. In four days, \$129,000 was raised! Thank you to the many volunteers, on-air guests, sponsors, phone groups, and donors. It was all possible because of your support.



The top DecemberFest 2015 fundraising programs on IdahoPTV were:

1. *A Salute to Downton Abbey*
2. *Outdoor Idaho "Idaho Headwaters"*
3. *Billy Joel: A Matter of Trust* tied with *Lawrence Welk TV Treasures*
4. *Celtic Woman: Home for Christmas*

IDAHO
SESSION *Governor Live*

STATE OF THE STATE AND BUDGET ADDRESS 2016

—Airs Monday, January 11, at 1/12 p.m. MT/PT and repeats at 8 p.m. MT/PT

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter shares his vision for Idaho with the Legislature and the state's citizens, along with his propose budget for 2016. The speech is also streamed live at idahoptv.org, where it will be archived for viewing on demand.



Idaho Public Television's weekly legislative news show expands to an hour while the Idaho Legislature is in session. Hosts Melissa Davlin and Aaron Kunz are joined by veteran political expert Jim Weatherby and reporter Betsy Russell of the Spokesman Review to provide analysis of each week's news and events during the 2016 legislative session. Statehouse reporters, legislators and other officials join the panel of experts to discuss issues throughout the legislative session. The hourlong program will return to 30 minutes

after the session ends and will continue to run through May. Look for more information and news updates online at idahoptv.org/idreports, @idahoreports on Twitter, and Idaho Reports on Facebook. After they are broadcast, the shows can be streamed online at idahoptv.org.

IDAHO IN SESSION

Idaho In Session is IdahoPTV's overall service that includes live on-air and online coverage of the Idaho Legislature during the 2016 session. Anyone with over-the-air reception of IdahoPTV's four digital channels can watch live sessions from the House (on Learn/Create Subchannel 3) and the Senate (on World Subchannel 4). The channels are also carried by some cable providers. Coverage can also be viewed online via computer or handheld device at www.idahoptv.org/insession.

Media files from all chamber sessions and committee meetings can be downloaded from the Idaho Legislature's website (www.legislature.idaho.gov) or at www.idahoptv.org/insession. Rooms that include cameras are the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC), the Lincoln Auditorium WW02 and East Wing 42. Eight committee rooms also offer audio-only live streaming.

Idaho In Session's other services include video-on-demand of the governor's State of the State Address and limited online press conferences through Governor Live. Judiciary Live offers live online coverage of the Idaho Supreme Court when it holds oral arguments in Boise.

Federal Funding Update

On Friday, December 18, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 – including \$445 million for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) in FY 2018, \$25.7 million for Ready To Learn, and \$40 million for a new interconnection system for public television.

In the Community



All children in Idaho in grades K-3 have the opportunity to enter the 22nd annual PBS Kids Writers Contest now through March 25. Entry forms and rules are being sent to all Idaho schools and libraries and are also available at www.idahoptv.org/kids. We encourage classroom entries as well as individual submissions. All children who enter will receive a Certificate of Participation, and statewide winners will be recognized at award ceremonies in or near their hometowns.



On December 3, executive producer Bruce Reichert made a presentation to the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association. During the presentation he showed video segments of *Outdoor Idaho* "Idaho Headwaters" and a profile of an outfitter who took us into the Sawtooth wilderness this past summer.



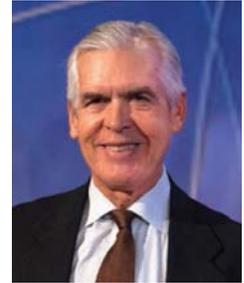
On December 8, EPSCoR partnered with Idaho Public Television to host an informal workshop for scientists on effectively interacting with the media. The event was led by Joan Cartan-Hansen of Idaho Public Television.

Our IdahoPTV Productions



"Attorney Philip Howard"

—Airs Friday, January 22, 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.



"Idaho Ecosystems"

—Airs Tuesday, January 19, at 2/1 p.m. MT/PT

Idaho has many different ecosystems, including forests, wetlands, deserts and grasslands. Why are these different ecosystems important to the plants and animals in the state? Why are they different? How are they the same?

Host Joan Cartan-Hansen and her guests will answer students' questions about Idaho's ecosystems. Guests include Leif Tapanila, director of the Idaho Museum of Natural History; and Rosemary Smith, professor of biology at Idaho State University

The *Science Trek* website offers facts, links, reading lists, a glossary, podcasts of programs; video shorts, full episodes and special Science Trek web exclusive programming.

IdahoPTV in the News

Such Sweet Sorrow: Idaho Celebrates a Final Visit to Downton Abbey

Friends of Idaho Public Television get a glimpse of the premiere of the sixth and final season.

By George Prentice @georgepren
December 16, 2015



In an age where the term "gold standard" is bandied about freely, Downton Abbey is platinum. Public television has seen several landmarks: puppets teaching multiple generations of kids on Sesame Street; premiere broadcasts from Lincoln Center and the Metropolitan Opera in the 1970s; and Ken Burns' American trilogy of documentaries, *Baseball*, *The Civil War* and *Jazz*. But we may never see the likes of Downton Abbey again.



Hundreds of Boise fans of Downton Abbey tipped their hats and bonnets to the PBS juggernaut as Idaho Public Television hosted an exclusive screening of the program's sixth and final season premiere, Dec. 14 at Boise's Egyptian Theatre.

"It's terrifically successful in Idaho, across the world really," said Ron Pisaneschi, general manager of Idaho Public Television. "And what surprised us from the very beginning was that it attracted much more than the typical Masterpiece Theater audience. The demographics are rather astounding: folks watching with their children, college parties in dormitories. It's a phenomenon that was pretty hard to predict."

The series, chronicling the Crawley family through the United Kingdom's post-Edwardian years, debuted in the United States in January 2011 and was a near-instant success, drawing more than 5,000,000 viewers each week.

"It's the highest rated drama in PBS history," Pisaneschi told Boise Weekly the evening of December 14, preparing to take the stage of Boise's Egyptian Theatre, a tailor-made historic showcase for what would be IDPTV's Christmas gift to Boise: an exclusive screening of Downton Abbey's sixth (and final) season premiere. IDPTV packed the theatre for the evening, the first of three Downton Abbey season premiere previews in Idaho. IDPTV will hold similar events Wednesday, Dec. 16 in Coeur d'Alene and Friday, Dec. 18 in Idaho Falls.

"But in spite of our cajoling, our pleading and even our whining, this is it for Downton Abbey. Sad to say, this is the final season," said Pisaneschi from the stage of the Egyptian, his remarks met by a sad-to-say collective, "Awwwww," from the audience.

"So, when Downton Abbey is over, what will we have to love?," Pisaneschi asked. "I have good news and two words for you: Mercy Street." He had the audience's full-attention, promising that Mercy Street, a U.S. Civil War-era medical drama debuting Sunday, Jan. 17, 2016, could be public television's most-buzzed-about show next year. "So yes, there is hope after Downton Abbey."

First things first: Downton Abbey's aristocratic Crawley clan (and their many servants) still have plenty of loose ends to tie-up in their final episodes, which airs on Sundays on PBS, beginning Jan. 3. And while we won't spoil any of that fun here, we can tell you that that the season premiere doesn't disappoint. There's a mysterious visitor, a scandalous tryst, blackmail, a heartbreaking lost pregnancy and a resolution to one of the series' major plotlines. Quite simply, the season six premiere episode has a little bit of everything.

Watching Downton Abbey with a theater full of fans (about a third attended in Edwardian-era costume) was an extra delight as the audience booed and hissed the entrance of bad boy butler Thomas Barrow (played with steely-eyed glee by Rob James-Collier), and openly cheered and belly-laughed at Maggie Smith's delicious portrayal of Downton Abbey's dowager countess. Over the years, Smith has delivered some of the best lines in television history, including: "Principles are like prayers; noble of course but awkward at a party" and "A lack of compassion can be as vulgar as an excess of tears."

Indeed, parting will be sweet sorrow when we bid of final adieus. Let's enjoy it while we may.



FCC turns down special protection for public TV translators in spectrum auction

By Doug Halonen

The FCC has rejected a request by pubcasters to prioritize and protect public TV translators during next year'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 FCC rules do not protect their licensees' rights to continue broadcasting after the auction ends.

Rules the FCC adopted last year 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 under the 2014 rules. 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 Thursday on the FCC's website, 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 GM 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."

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 pubcasters.

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."