Quotes

“I really enjoyed the episode shown tonight on OPB (Oregon Public Broadcasting) about (Outdoor Idaho’s “Nature’s Healing Power”) Reel Recovery and other groups helping those with cancer and PTSD feel the healing power of nature. Great story. Well done.”
Jean Doane, Portland

“Happily, I was able to watch IPTV last night for the first time in many days. I can’t even tell you how much that means to me, and with your line up to look forward to I’m in great shape. I adore Outdoor Idaho programs...I may just be your biggest fan. I don’t subscribe to cable or satellite tv because there’s nothing of quality there, and because I don’t need it to watch my PBS stations. As I said yesterday, IPTV is my absolute favorite, so being cut off from it, I feel a sense of loss. I’ll be watching!”
Gloria Kaley

“I was just listening to the McClure Symposium. What bunch of excuses! Can’t anyone get something done?”
Jim, Nampa, July 5, 2013

Idaho Statesman

Ed Board hires from within, names Pisaneschi GM at Idaho Public TV
By Dan Popkey, Idaho Statesman
July 24, 2013

The State Board of Education on Wednesday announced it has hired Idaho Public Television veteran Ron Pisaneschi as general manager of a system that reaches every corner of Idaho.


Pisaneschi began at Idaho Public TV in 1985. He takes over Aug. 5 from longtime GM Peter Morrill, who announced his retirement in March. The board, holder of the system’s license with the Federal Communications Commission, engaged in a national search.

“Idaho PTV is fortunate to have someone with Ron’s passion for public television and expertise in programming and operations ready to step up and lead the
organization,” said Board President Don Soltman in a news release. “We are confident that Ron will provide the vision and leadership needed to ensure that Idaho PTV continues to provide people with excellent programs and high-quality learning opportunities.”

Pisaneschi is currently director of content, a post that makes him known to viewers as the author of “Ron’s Picks,” his regular viewing suggestions. In 2005, Pisaneschi was named Programmer of the Year by Public Broadcasting Service colleagues. He also is a former chairman of the Idaho Humanities Council.

Idaho Public Television has the highest per capita viewership in the PBS system and offers original programming including “Dialogue,” “Idaho Reports,” “The Idaho Debates” and “Outdoor Idaho.”

Earlier, Pisaneschi worked as director of public information, director of marketing and director of programming. He attended the University of San Francisco and Lone Mountain College, earning a fine arts degree in film and photography. Lone Mountain is now part of USF.

--On Saturday, June 29, PBS’ Antiques Roadshow landed in the Expo Idaho Building at the Western Idaho Fairgrounds, for a daylong taping. The resulting efforts will produce three, one-hour programs that will premier sometime in the first half of 2013.

Many people have asked about what big finds were discovered.

1. Sanford Robinson Gifford painting, appraised by Betty Krulik--$300,000 insurance value. The guest inherited this painting from her in-law’s estate, where it has been in the family for over 50 years and is currently stored in the basement. Gifford is a Hudson River School artist. The painting is of an Italian landscape; if it was an American scene, it could command as much as $750,000.

2. Edward Hopper Sailboat Etching, appraised by Todd Weyman--$250,000 insurance value. This etching first belonged to the guest’s grandfather, who was a member of the New York Society of Etchers. Hopper made etchings in very small editions, and this one is entitled “The Cat Boat.”

3. First edition Book of Mormon, appraised by Ken Sanders--$100,000 insurance value/$75,000 at auction. Made in 1830, this first edition of the Book of Mormon is one of the most important to the Mormon faith. The guest’s great-grandfather received the book in 1833, three years after the founding of the Mormon church. One of the most important of the early editions, this rare book is signed by each generation including the current owner giving it an unusual provenance as well.
4. Baguette diamond and Burmese ruby necklace, appraised by Peter Shemonsky--$80,000-$100,000 at auction. The necklace was mailed to the guest’s mother 15 years ago, from the husband of a friend who passed away. The package sat on the porch, unnoticed and uninsured, for many days. It was made around 1918-1920 with both Edwardian and Art Deco style represented, and is comprised of platinum, baguette diamonds, and an unheated Burmese ruby.

5. Letter from Thomas Jefferson, appraised by John Schulman--$75,000-$100,000 insurance value/$35,000-$50,000 at auction. The guest’s great-great-great grandfather, Joseph Eckels, wrote a letter to Thomas Jefferson in 1822 asking for books to read in an effort to further his eduction. Jefferson had founded the University of Virginia based on the principle of educating people who could not normally afford and education, and he responded to Eckels with a list of books and opinions.

Other notable appraisals:

The Day the Earth Stood Still lobby cards, appraised by Laura Woolley--$10,000-$12,000. The guest bought these cards for $40 in the early 1970s. He saw the movie during 1951 in Weiser, ID for 9 cents per ticket.

Earl Moran Pinup Painting, appraised by Colleen Fesko--$20,000-$30,000 at auction. The guest’s mother bought this painting 10-15 years ago at an estate sale for $200. Moran was a popular pinup painter around the mid-century. His work rises in value with the more scantily clothed the model.

--I’m very proud to let you know that on Saturday, July 20, Idaho Public Television was honored with (a record) four awards from the Idaho State Broadcaster Association’s (ISBA) “Best in Broadcasting” ceremony held in Sun Valley.

Awards include:

- Best Agriculture Program: “Idaho Reports – Water Infrastructure”
- Best Sports Program: “Outdoor Idaho, Climbing Idaho”
- Best Website: “idahoptv.org”

In addition, the ISBA honored Peter Morrill for “significant contribution to public broadcasting in Idaho.”

Congratulations to our outstanding team!

--Some of you may have read news headlines around July 24 that a committee of the U.S. House of Representatives was scheduled to vote on an appropriations bill markup including language to eliminate future funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Late July 25, that vote was postponed. No new vote date has been proposed for its consideration.

I’m including three related articles in the “In the News” section that you may find informative including the New York Times, CQ Roll Call and Current.org.

Ron Pisaneschi and I have been discussing this issue and the impact of the loss of critical CPB funding with staff members of our delegation. We’ll keep you posted as events warrant.
IdahoPTV participated in the Celebration of Conservation, fundraiser for The Trailing of the Sheep Festival, Sunday, June 30, at the Flat Top Sheep Ranch in Carey and hosted by John and Diane Josephy Peavey. Greg Hahn, Seth Ogilvie and Kathe Alters were guests at this event, which was attended by more than 150 people from the Wood River Valley. Greg and Seth set the stage for returning to Wood River Valley later to collect stories for their upcoming “Outdoor Idaho: Hemingway’s Idaho or Idaho’s Hemingway?” (working title). We will return to the Wood River Valley area to participate in their Hemingway Symposium events in late September and again in mid-October for a screening of the new Outdoor Idaho program “Summit Idaho.”

In early July, PBS released information indicating Idaho Public Television-contributed content on PBS online is the most viewed for a local PBS station. Our website, www.video.idahoptv.org, had 180,450 viewed streams during the period of April through June 2013.

PBS Video Local Station Top 5 Streaming
April 1-June 30, 2013
Source: PBS

Streams
180,450  Idaho Public Television
149,467  Wisconsin Public Television
119,146  KPBS San Diego
118,511  New Hampshire PBS
111,544  Oregon Public Broadcasting

Good Summer Reading

Aired Friday, August 2, at 7:30 p.m. MT/PT
Watch it now at: http://idahoptv.org/dialogue/diaShowPage.cfm?versionID=263889

DIALOGUE continues its 20th season on August 2 with one of the show’s perennial favorites — host Marcia Franklin’s Good Summer Reading show. The 2013 edition focuses on the work of authors Mike Medberry of Boise and Jo Deurbrouck of Idaho Falls, who also give their picks for good summer reads.

Medberry has penned a memoir titled On the Dark Side of the Moon: A Journey to Recovery, about his stroke in 2000 while visiting the Craters of the Moon National Monument. Medberry, who lay near death for several hours until he was rescued, interweaves the story of his recovery with his love for the harsh yet beautiful area, and his longstanding efforts to help secure an expansion of the area’s monument designation, which happened later in 2000.
Deurbrouck’s book, * Anything Worth Doing*, is an ode to Idaho whitewater raft guides Clancy Reece and Jon Barker. Reece died in 1996 during an attempt to set a speed record in a dory on the Salmon River; and Deurbrouck, a river rafter herself, was drawn to his story of both freedom and risk. The book won a National Outdoor Book Award in 2012 in the History/Biography category.

Both the program and a Web extra are available online at video.idahoptv.org. In the Web extra, Medberry and Deurbrouck will talk about the publishing process and some of the challenges of getting a book published.

View or listen to DIALOGUE episodes in a variety of formats:
Over-the-air high-definition broadcast on the Idaho channel airs Fridays at 7:30 p.m. MT/PT, with repeats Sundays at 5:00/4:00 p.m. MT/PT. To find local channel information for over-the-air broadcast, cable or satellite go to: http://idahoptv.org/about/wheretofind.cfm.

Standard-definition over-the-air broadcasts air on Plus and World channels throughout the week, days and evenings, times vary. Plus is available through some cable companies; consult local suppliers.

Video streaming is available through IdahoPTV’s video player that also features national PBS shows (video.idahoptv.org). The DIALOGUE Web page (idahoptv.org/dialogue) also offers a library of videos through a player that is compatible with most computers and mobile devices, including iOS devices.

PBS app for iPad, iPhone and iPod Touch is available free from iTunes; choose “Programs” (the symbol resembles a deck of cards) and scroll to DIALOGUE.

Podcasts (MP3, audio-only; and MP4, audio-video for Macintosh and iTunes users) are available for download from idahoptv.org/dialogue.

KBSX 91.5 FM audio only in Southwest Idaho. Sundays at 11:30 a.m. MT.

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**Conservationist Shane Mahoney**

–Aired Friday, July 26 at 7:30 p.m.
–Watch it now at: http://idahoptv.org/dialogue/diaShowPage.cfm?versionID=263888

In conjunction with World Conservation Day, July 28, Marcia Franklin talked with internationally known conservationist Shane Mahoney. Mahoney, a Canadian wildlife biologist, believes the conservation movement is one of the greatest ideals the United States has produced, but that without broader support, our country could start losing the species it has protected.

Mahoney, executive director of the Institute of Biodiversity, Ecosystem Science and Sustainability for the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador, is known for his conservation advocacy work. He visited Boise to address the annual meeting of the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association and the City Club of Boise. In 2012, he was the keynote speaker at the Idaho Fish and Game’s Wildlife Summit.

Among other issues, Franklin and Mahoney discussed whether the general public should help fund the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Currently, the agency does not receive any sales tax revenue, but is instead funded in large part by hunting and fishing licenses. The two also discuss the value of wildlife to humans, conflicts over certain species such as wolves, and the threats to wildlife around the world.

In a special Web extra, the two continue their discussion about conservation issues.
World Court Judge Joan Donoghue

–Aired Friday, July 19, at 7:30 p.m.
–Watch it now at: http://idahoptv.org/dialogue/diaShowPage.cfm?versionID=263887

On the July 19 DIALOGUE, host Marcia Franklin interviewed Judge Joan Donoghue of the World Court, also known as the International Court of Justice. Donoghue is the first female American judge to sit on the court, which is in The Hague, Netherlands, and is only the second female judge to be seated in that court’s history.

During the program, Judge Donoghue discussed the role of the court, which hears disputes between nation-states, her experience on the court, and the importance of international law. The court’s opinions are sometimes controversial, and since 1986, the United States has only recognized its jurisdiction on a case-by-case basis. Franklin also discusses that situation with Judge Donoghue.

Before being elected to her post in 2010 by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council, Judge Donoghue had a distinguished career in the U.S. Department of State. Among her positions, she served as principal deputy legal adviser; deputy legal adviser; assistant legal adviser for Economic and Business Affairs; and assistant legal adviser for Oceans, Environment and Science.

Public Television in the News

New Idaho Public TV Leader, Same High-Quality Shows
By SCOTT GRAF, Boise State Public Radio
July 30, 2013

Idaho Public Television’s new general manager starts his job next week. The Idaho State Board of Education last week selected Ron Pisaneschi to replace longtime general manager Peter Morrill.

Pisaneschi is no stranger to IPTV - he’s worked for the station for the last 28 years. During that time, he’s served in a number of different roles, most recently as director of content.

“It felt like it was the natural next step to lead an organization that I’ve been involved with for virtually most of my career,” Pisaneschi says.

Pisaneschi says fans of the station can rest easy. He has no plans to make significant changes to Idaho Public TV’s lineup.

“I come from programming,” Pisaneschi says. “I was the one who was choosing the programs and developing with our producers the content that we produce. Viewers can feel comfortable that while there may be some slight changes here and there, they can expect the same kind of high quality programming and local productions that they’ve come to expect from us [in the past].”

Pisaneschi will take over as general manager August 5.
Copyright 2013 Boise State Public Radio
Factors once a danger to PBS now gives system a chance to shine
By Associated Press, Updated: Monday, July 29, 7:04 AM
NEW YORK — Honey Boo Boo, the management at PBS wants to thank you.

You, too, real housewives. And naked castaways, Long Island princesses, breakaway Amish, storage warriors, pawn stars and pickers. People at public television may not want to watch you, but they are happy to see you.

When Discovery, The Learning Channel, History, Bravo, A&E and similar networks emerged, there was a real fear it could lead to the death of PBS. Each specialized network would pick off a portion of PBS’ audience for programs on science, nature, history and the arts. Founded as an alternative to commercial TV, PBS was losing what made it unique.

Yet in the past few years, these cable networks discovered that it was much more profitable to create reality TV stars. PBS’ path was cleared, and it is making the most of its new chance.

“It is now once again something that the viewer can’t get anywhere else,” said Beth Hoppe, PBS’ programming chief.

PBS’ viewership slipped steadily starting in 1993, which hardly made it unusual in a world with an ever-increasing number of choices. Since 2009, that trend has reversed. PBS’ average prime-time audience has ticked back up from 1.9 million four years ago to 2.1 million now, with the growth faster among young people. Certainly the sensation of “Downton Abbey” is a key factor, but the growth isn’t just on Sunday.

Hoppe is trying to infuse PBS with new energy, make its projects more timely and get her colleagues to treat it as a television network instead of just a public service.

Hoppe worked at PBS stations in New Hampshire, Boston and New York City and remembers well the worries when new cable networks started.

“We were concerned that people would consider us irrelevant because we were no longer providing a service, or that we would no longer be perceived as providing a service that people couldn’t get anywhere else,” she said. Maybe PBS’ programs were better, but that might not matter, she said.

She left PBS to join the new wave, taking a job at Discovery to produce science programming for its networks. She knew it was time for something else when an executive asked her to go to Los Angeles to “add sex and celebrities” to the “Curiosity” series she was working on. Hoppe talked to old friend Paula Kerger, the president and CEO of the Public Broadcasting Service, to see if there was room for her if she returned.

There was, and by last December, she was made responsible for PBS’ programming department.

Hoppe cites Animal Planet’s mermaids shows as examples of something PBS would never do. “Mermaids: The Body Found” played like a documentary but was an admitted fake and was a huge success, spawning a sequel.
PBS, meanwhile, is a Snooki-free zone.

“It’s not that the programming is bad,” Kerger said. “It’s just different, that’s all. They’re in a different business.”

Hoppe has tried to make PBS more topical, ordering a lengthy examination of guns in America that ran a month after the Newtown, Conn., school shooting. She pushed PBS producers for programs looking at the Boston Marathon bombing, the meteorite that exploded over Russia in February and Superstorm Sandy.

“She comes to her job with a filmmaker’s sensibility,” said John Bredar, vice president of national programming at Boston’s WGBH, the largest supplier of PBS programming. “She understands things from the ground up as a producer, as opposed to someone who just commissions work. She’s someone who has a visceral understanding of what the market is like.”

In October, PBS’ “Frontline” is collaborating with ESPN for “Concussion Watch,” an investigation into health issues caused by violent collisions in the National Football League.

PBS will aggressively mine anniversaries as programming hooks. This fall brings an “American Masters” special on Billie Jean King 40 years after her “Battle of the Sexes” tennis match with Bobby Riggs and a show on “War of the Worlds” 75 years after the radio program incited panic.

As with other networks, the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy’s assassination will be given attention. PBS’ programming will include a four-hour portrait of Kennedy, a “cold case” look at evidence in the shooting and a minute-by-minute recap of the killing from the firing of shots to when CBS’ Walter Cronkite reported Kennedy’s death.

That’s what Hoppe means when she talks about thinking like a network instead of just a service, anticipating the interests of viewers. There’s a difference between waiting to see what work producers will offer you and actively going out with some of your own ideas.

PBS is also trying to bring more consistency to a schedule that encompasses several genres. Producers call it “flow,” and in this case it means concentrating science programming on Wednesday, arts on Friday, with more history and news-oriented shows on Monday and Tuesday.

“I’m so delighted that she’s in this job and really trying to help us become more timely, to bring more context in and really look to refresh what new genres we could bring to public television,” Kerger said.

While there’s much on cable TV that PBS doesn’t want to emulate, Hoppe said the competition has pushed public broadcasting to be more innovative. She considers “Antiques Roadshow” an example. The success of miniseries like History’s “Hatfields & McCoys” and “The Bible” is pushing PBS to get into that genre, with the first project under development involving the Civil War.

The system’s crown jewel, “Downton Abbey,” returns for its fourth season on Jan. 5. You’d have to look back two decades to Ken Burns’ “The Civil War” to find a series as important to PBS.

The hope is that it doesn’t exist in a vacuum, that some of the interest created by the series can be transferred to other things on the schedule. Programs on Henry VIII’s palace and “Secrets of Chatsworth” were clearly aired to appeal to Anglophile “Downton” fans, and this fall will see documentaries on the Tower of London and Scotland Yard. Same thing with some British dramas, like “Call the Midwife” and “The Bletchley Circle.”

“If we could look back in 10 years and say that was a real turning point for PBS in terms of its perception in popular culture and being cool and hip — the first of many new hits for PBS of that sort of magnitude — that would be awesome,” Hoppe said.
EDITOR’S NOTE — David Bauder can be reached at dbauder@ap.org or on Twitter@dbauder. His work can be found at http://bigstory.ap.org/content/david-bauder.

APTS Action, Inc. Government Relations Update
July 26, 2013
This Government Relations Update is meant exclusively for the benefit of APTS and APTS Action, Inc. members.

House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Update
Earlier this week, the House Appropriations Committee announced that the draft bill that provides funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) and Ready To Learn would be released and considered this week. A few days later, however, the release of and the Subcommittee action scheduled on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (Labor-HHS-Education) Appropriations bill was postponed indefinitely.

In the meantime, several news outlets have reported that the House Labor-HHS-Education draft bill would zero out funding for CPB. While these reports are disappointing and concerning, this information is consistent with the intelligence the Association of Public Television Stations (APTS) has received and has shared with stations in the past.

It is unclear when or if action on the House FY 2014 Labor-HHS-Education funding bill will take place or whether the draft bill will be officially released. Part of the reason for this uncertainty is that many Representatives have concerns about the numerous deep cuts - including those to public broadcasting - that would be included in this bill. APTS will continue to follow this legislation closely and provide you with the latest information as it develops.

CQ Rollcall, July 25, 2013
House Republicans Postpone Markup of Contentious Labor-HHS-Education Bill
By Kerry Young, CQ Roll Call

House Republican appropriators postponed this week’s scheduled markup of the most controversial of the annual spending bills as details began to spread about the steep cuts in programs that the panel would call for in the Labor-HHS-Education measure.

The Appropriations Committee said the planned Thursday morning markup was put off because of scheduling conflicts, partly because floor debate was expected to continue on the Defense appropriations bill (HR 2397) and because the State-Foreign Operations bill was being marked up Wednesday.

The Appropriations Committee completed the markup of the State-Foreign Operations bill after noon on Wednesday, and the Labor-HHS-Education markup was scheduled for 9 a.m. on Thursday.

“I was afraid that this markup would go a lot longer,” said House Appropriations Chairman Harold Rogers, R-Ky. “So we were sort of nervous about scheduling something with all of these pending.”
The postponement also came amid new reports about the specific reductions that would be needed to get the Labor-HHS-Education bill to $122 billion in discretionary spending, down 23 percent from the $157 billion enacted level for this fiscal year. The Labor-HHS-Education bill absorbs almost half of the $91 billion gap between the House and Senate on fiscal 2014 spending.

“For all of those people who want to continue to cut and cut and cut, now they are going to see the implications of some of those cuts,” said Mike Simpson of Idaho, a senior GOP appropriator who serves on the Labor-HHS-Education panel.

Committee aides confirmed that the plan the panel would consider would cut education grants for low-income students 16 percent and reduce spending at the Labor Department by 13 percent. It would eliminate funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and use the savings to maintain backing for Head Start, special education and the National Institutes of Health.

The details of the proposed cuts were first reported in Wednesday’s editions of The New York Times.

Postponing the Thursday markup also puts off the public release of the bill that would have come Wednesday, just as President Barack Obama was launching a four-day speaking tour on economic issues. In his speech at Knox College in Illinois, Obama criticized Republicans who are “playing to their most strident supporters” and “cut early education for vulnerable kids and insurance for people who’ve lost their jobs through no fault of their own.”

Democrats have been pressing Republicans to release the text of the bill, as it would make clear the stark level of cuts to specific programs that are needed to maintain the GOP budget blueprint for fiscal 2014.

The committee said in a notice Wednesday on its website that information about rescheduling of the markup will be posted “as it is available.”

“As far as the subcommittee and the full committee, we are waiting for the calendar to give us the breathing room,” said Jack Kingston, R-Ga., the chairman of the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education subcommittee.

Some medical research lobbyists doubt that House Republican appropriators are going to reschedule the subcommittee markup because they question whether the GOP wants to call public attention to sharp fiscal 2014 cuts that they intend to make to federal health programs.

Emily Holubowich of the Coalition for Health Funding said the cut in allocations that GOP appropriators announced this year means any markup would leave GOP members taking tough votes to slash programs that enjoy bipartisan support.

Jennifer Zeitzer, a lobbyist with the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, said appropriators should “put the numbers out there” to show how they would protect some programs while cutting others. “It just makes the negotiations at the end of the year that much more difficult” if there isn’t a full public airing and vetting of proposed cuts, she said.
House Appropriations proposes cutting NEA, NEH funding in half
Published on Current.org, July 25, 2013
By Andrew Lapin

The House Appropriations Committee has proposed cutting funding to the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities by 49 percent for fiscal year 2014, from $146 million to $75 million for each.

The cuts fall far below President Obama’s proposed NEA and NEH funding levels of $154.5 million, slightly higher than their pre-sequestration levels. Both organizations provide millions of dollars in grants to public broadcasting initiatives every year.

The committee approved the bill containing the cuts Monday, as part of its ongoing series of fiscal year 2014 appropriations bills. The bill will need to pass through the full House and Senate before it reaches the president’s desk.

Rep. Hal Rogers (R-Ky.), committee chairman, said in a statement that the bill “seeks to protect vital programs that directly affect the safety and well-being of Americans, while dramatically scaling back lower-priority, or ‘nice-to-have’ programs.”

- See more at: http://www.current.org/2013/07/house-appropriations-proposes-cutting-nea-neh-funding-in-half/#sthash.BNAXPHNK.dpuf

The New York Times

July 24, 2013

“A House bill to finance labor and health programs, expected to be unveiled Wednesday, makes good on Republican threats to eliminate the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

The labor and health measure — for years the most contentious spending bill — will protect some of the White House’s priorities, like Head Start, special education and the National Institutes of Health, but to do so education grants for poor students will be cut by 16 percent and the Labor Department by 13 percent, according to House Republican aides.”

Pisaneschi moves up to lead Idaho Public Television in August
July 24, 2013

By Dru Sefton, Current

The next general manager of Idaho Public Television is Ron Pisaneschi, now its director of content. Pisaneschi takes over Aug. 5 from Peter Morrill, who announced his retirement in March.
The State Board of Education announced Pisaneschi’s appointment today. “Idaho PTV is fortunate to have someone with Ron’s passion for public television and expertise in programming and operations ready to step up and lead the organization,” said Don Soltman, board president.

During his 28 years at Idaho PTV, Pisaneschi has directed public information, marketing and programming. He also served on the Public Television Programmers Association Board of Directors from 2002-07, including as president in 2006. He has been active on the PBS Children’s Advisory Committee; CPB’s Research Advisory Panel; and several other national funding and programming panels.

“I am privileged to work with an amazing group of people who are dedicated to serving the public by providing engaging, educational programs and resources.” Pisaneschi said in the announcement.


Ron Pisaneschi Named New General Manager of Idaho Public Television

(Boise). The State Board of Education today announced that Ron Pisaneschi has been selected as the new General Manager of Idaho Public Television.

Mr. Pisaneschi has served Idaho PTV since 1985, most recently as Director of Content. He has worked in educational filmmaking, radio programming, public relations and marketing. Mr. Pisaneschi attended the University of San Francisco and Lone Mountain College, graduating with a fine arts degree in film and photography.

During his 28 years at Idaho Public Television, he has served as Director of Public Information, Director of Marketing, and Director of Programming before taking on his current duties. Under his leadership, Idaho Public Television regularly attracts the largest viewership, per capita, in the PBS system. He served on the Board of Directors of the Public Television Programmers Association from 2002-2007, serving as President in 2006, the PBS Children’s Advisory Committee, Corporation for Public Broadcasting Research Advisory Panel, and numerous other national funding and programming advisory panels. He was named the 2005 Programmer of the Year by his colleagues in the PBS system. From 2002-2012 he was on the Board of Directors of the Idaho Humanities Council, where he served for two terms as Chairman.

“Idaho PTV is fortunate to have someone with Ron’s passion for public television and expertise in programming and operations ready to step up and lead the organization,” said Don Soltman, President of the Board. “We are confident that Ron will provide the vision and leadership needed to ensure that Idaho PTV continues to provide people with excellent programs and high-quality learning opportunities.”

Pisaneschi assumes the General Manager position effective August 5. Former General Manager Peter Morrill announced his retirement in March but has stayed on to assist in the hiring and transition process.
“I am privileged to work with an amazing group of people who are dedicated to serving the public by providing engaging, educational programs and resources,” said Pisaneschi. “This is an exciting opportunity, and I look forward to building on the successes and strengths of Idaho Public Television.”

To learn more about Idaho Public Television, visit www.idahoptv.org.

To learn more about the Idaho State Board of Education, visit www.boardofed.idaho.gov.


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**Pisaneschi named general manager of Idaho Public Television**

By Betsy Russell, Spokesman-Review  
July 24, 2013 9:54 a.m.  

Ron Pisaneschi, a 28-year veteran of Idaho Public Television, has been named its new general manager by the State Board of Education, to succeed Peter Morrill, who is retiring; Pisaneschi will start Aug. 5. “Idaho PTV is fortunate to have someone with Ron’s passion for public television and expertise in programming and operations ready to step up and lead the organization,” said Don Soltman, state board president. “We are confident that Ron will provide the vision and leadership needed to ensure that Idaho PTV continues to provide people with excellent programs and high-quality learning opportunities.”

Pisaneschi’s current title at IPTV is director of content; over the years, he’s served as director of programming, director of marketing, director of public information and more. He was named 2005 Programmer of the Year by his colleagues in the PBS system. He holds a fine arts degree in film and photography from the University of San Francisco, and has also worked in educational filmmaking, radio programming, public relations and marketing.

“I am privileged to work with an amazing group of people who are dedicated to serving the public by providing engaging, educational programs and resources,” Pisaneschi said. “This is an exciting opportunity, and I look forward to building on the successes and strengths of Idaho Public Television.”

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**Ron Pisaneschi is general manager at Idaho Public Television**

By IBR Staff  
Published: July 24, 2013

Ron Pisaneschi has been named general manager of Idaho Public Television, effective Aug. 5. He fills the position vacated by Peter Morrill, who announced his retirement in March but has remained at Idaho PTV during the hiring and transition process.

Pisaneschi has worked for Idaho PTV since 1985, most recently as director of content. He previously worked as director of public information, director of marketing and director of programming. His experience is in educational filmmaking, radio programming, public relations and marketing.
Pisaneschi sat on the board of directors of the Public Television Programmers Association from 2002 to 2007 and was president in 2006. He sat on the board of directors of the Idaho Humanities Council from 2002 to 2012 and was chairman for two terms. He also sat on the PBS Children’s Advisory Committee, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting Research Advisory Panel and other national funding and programming advisory panels. In 2005 he was named Programmer of the Year by PBS colleagues.

Pisaneschi holds a fine arts degree in film and photography. He attended University of San Francisco and Lone Mountain College.


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**Ron Pisaneschi named as new Idaho Public Television General Manager**

By Steve Bertel, KIVI-TV

JUL. 24, 2013

The State Board of Education Wednesday announced that Ron Pisaneschi has been selected as the new General Manager of Idaho Public Television.

Pisaneschi has served Idaho PTV since 1985, most recently as Director of Content. He has worked in educational filmmaking, radio programming, public relations and marketing.

Pisaneschi attended the University of San Francisco and Lone Mountain College, graduating with a fine arts degree in film and photography.

During his 28 years at Idaho Public Television, he has served as Director of Public Information, Director of Marketing, and Director of Programming before taking on his current duties, according to a news release from the Idaho State Board of Education.

Under his leadership, Idaho Public Television regularly attracts the largest viewership, per capita, in the PBS system, the release said.

He served on the Board of Directors of the Public Television Programmers Association from 2002-2007, serving as President in 2006, the PBS Children’s Advisory Committee, Corporation for Public Broadcasting Research Advisory Panel, and numerous other national funding and programming advisory panels. He was named the 2005 Programmer of the Year by his colleagues in the PBS system. From 2002-2012 he was on the Board of Directors of the Idaho Humanities Council, where he served for two terms as Chairman.

“Idaho PTV is fortunate to have someone with Ron’s passion for public television and expertise in programming and operations ready to step up and lead the organization,” said Don Soltman, President of the Board. “We are confident that Ron will provide the vision and leadership needed to ensure that Idaho PTV continues to provide people with excellent programs and high-quality learning opportunities.”

Pisaneschi assumes the General Manager position effective August 5. Former General Manager Peter Morrill announced his retirement in March but has stayed on to assist in the hiring and transition process.
“I am privileged to work with an amazing group of people who are dedicated to serving the public by providing engaging, educational programs and resources.” said Pisaneschi. “This is an exciting opportunity, and I look forward to building on the successes and strengths of Idaho Public Television.”

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The New York Times

House G.O.P. Sets New Offensive on Obama Goals

By JONATHAN WEISMAN, New York Times


WASHINGTON — Congressional Republicans are moving to gut many of President Obama’s top priorities with the sharpest spending cuts in a generation and a new push to hold government financing hostage unless the president’s signature health care law is stripped of money this fall.

As Mr. Obama prepares to deliver a major economic address on Wednesday in Illinois, Republicans in Washington are delivering blow after blow to programs he will promote as vital to a more robust economic recovery and a firmer economic future — from spending on infrastructure and health care to beefing up regulatory agencies. While Mr. Obama would like to keep the economic conversation lofty, his adversaries in Congress are already fighting in the trenches.

On Tuesday, a House Appropriations subcommittee formally drafted legislation that would cut the Environmental Protection Agency’s budget by 34 percent and eliminate his newly announced greenhouse gas regulations. The bill cuts financing for the national endowments for the arts and the humanities in half and the Fish and Wildlife Service by 27 percent.

For the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1, Mr. Obama requested nearly $3 billion for renewable energy and energy efficiency programs — a mainstay of his economic agenda since he was first elected. The House approved $826 million. Senate Democrats want to give $380 million to ARPA-E, an advanced research program for energy. The House allocated $70 million.

A House bill to finance labor and health programs, expected to be unveiled Wednesday, makes good on Republican threats to eliminate the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The labor and health measure — for years the most contentious spending bill — will protect some of the White House’s priorities, like Head Start, special education and the National Institutes of Health, but to do so education grants for poor students will be cut by 16 percent and the Labor Department by 13 percent, according to House Republican aides.

“These are tough bills,” acknowledged Representative Harold Rogers, the Kentucky Republican who leads the House Appropriations Committee. “His priorities are going nowhere.”

The Democrat-controlled Senate will not go along with the House cuts, but the different approaches will complicate negotiations. With just 24 legislative days remaining before Oct. 1, talks to resolve the disparities have not really begun, lawmakers said, putting Congress and the president on a collision course that could shut down the government after this fiscal year ends Sept. 30.
“This is as serious a challenge on fiscal matters as I’ve ever seen,” said Representative Steny H. Hoyer of Maryland, the No. 2 House Democrat and a veteran of more than three decades in Congress.

In the Senate, Republicans are circulating a letter to Senator Harry Reid of Nevada, the majority leader, warning they will not approve any spending measure to keep the government operating after Sept. 30 if it devotes a penny to put in place Mr. Obama’s health care law. Signers so far include the No. 2 and No. 3 Republican senators, John Cornyn of Texas and John Thune of South Dakota, as well as one of the party’s rising stars, Marco Rubio of Florida.

The letter, drafted by Senators Mike Lee of Utah, Ted Cruz of Texas and Rand Paul of Kentucky, states: “If Democrats will not agree with Republicans that Obamacare must be repealed, perhaps they can at least agree with the president that the law cannot be implemented as written. If the administration will not enforce the law as written, then the American people should not be forced to fund it.”

Taken together, efforts in both chambers amount to some of the most serious cuts to domestic spending since the Republicans in 1995 tried to shutter the departments of Energy, Education and Commerce — and ended up shutting the government down for 28 days. “It’s about time we cut some spending around here,” said Representative Paul D. Ryan of Wisconsin, chairman of the House Budget Committee.

A senior White House adviser, Dan Pfeiffer, said Republicans were offering no plan “other than indiscriminate cuts as far as the eye can see and repeal Obamacare as often as possible.”

“We need them to step away from the brink, stop the gridlock and work with Democrats to make progress,” Mr. Pfeiffer said. “If they don’t, a train wreck is inevitable and the country will suffer.”

If the White House can reach the coming fiscal year without economic disruption, the fight will transition immediately to the next showdown: raising the government’s statutory borrowing authority. The Treasury has been shifting money within government accounts for weeks to keep the government solvent, but by October or early November, such “extraordinary measures” will have been exhausted, Treasury officials have told lawmakers.

Mr. Obama has said he will not negotiate terms to raise the debt ceiling, but Congressional Republicans say they will not let the deadline pass without concessions, either on changes to entitlement programs like Medicare or on some statutory timeline to put in place a sweeping overhaul of the tax code next year.

“We’re not going to raise the debt ceiling without real cuts in spending,” Speaker John A. Boehner of Ohio said Tuesday. “It’s as simple as that.”

To resolve the brewing fiscal crisis, the House and Senate must first agree on a total spending number for the next fiscal year, then adjust their respective spending plans to comply with it. Republicans would have to drop their insistence that spending in fiscal 2014 be set at a level equal to the total fixed by the 2011 Budget Control Act, then cut further by the automatic, across-the-board spending cuts known as sequestration, something Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Republican leader, said Tuesday that he will not do.

Democrats will almost certainly have to come down from the spending levels set in the spending bills being drafted in the Senate. And Mr. Obama, who has issued veto threats on every House spending bill, will have to give up on some of his priorities, Republicans say.

But beyond a few casual conversations on the Senate floor and between White House aides and Republican senators, no real negotiations have even begun.
Republicans are open about their intentions to target the president’s priorities. The House transportation and housing bill for fiscal 2014 cuts from $3.3 billion to $1.7 billion the financing for Community Development Block Grants, which go mainly to large cities and urban counties for housing and social programs, largely for the poor. That level is below the number secured by President Gerald R. Ford when he created the program — without adjusting for inflation.

The Securities and Exchange Commission, which has been flexing its muscle against hedge fund managers and insider trading schemes, would see financing cut 18 percent from the current level. Though Mr. Obama will finally get a fully operational National Labor Relations Board under a Senate agreement that forced Republicans to drop their filibuster of his three board nominees, House lawmakers are slashing spending on the board’s operations.

Under other House legislation, the budget for the Internal Revenue Service would be cut by 24 percent, Amtrak would lose a third of its financing, and clean water grants from the Environmental Protection Agency would be slashed by 83 percent.


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**The Spokesman-Review**

Eye On Boise

**New film will chronicle how Idaho’s ‘Bluebird Man’ helped recover the state bird**

By Betsy Russell, Spokesman-Review

July 12, 2013 10:22 a.m.


Idaho’s “Bluebird Man,” Al Larson, is now 91 years old, and he’s the topic of a new documentary about how he helped recover the population of Idaho’s state bird, the Mountain Bluebird. Larson, a World War II vet who grew up in the Owyhee mountains, saw his first Mountain Bluebird in 1936 while riding fence on a ridge near Jordan Valley; in 1978, while looking for a hobby after retiring from his sawmill job, Larson read a National Geographic article about the decline of bluebird populations across North America. That year, he set up 25 nest boxes and began monitoring the birds. Eventually he had 350 nest boxes in five southwest Idaho counties, and over the years he has banded more than 27,000 bluebird nestlings.

“Al has been joined by many other citizen scientists across the continent who have set up bluebird trails in an attempt to boost bluebird populations by providing additional nesting habitat,” says Matthew Podolsky, producer of “Bluebird Man,” the film, who is with Boise-based non-profit production company Wild Lens. “These efforts have been hugely successful, resulting in the dramatic recovery of this enigmatic species.”

The half-hour movie began filming in April and will finish production at the end of the year; Idaho Public Television plans to air it when it’s completed.

Now, Wild Lens is in the midst of a Kickstarter campaign to raise the final $15,000 needed for production and distribution costs; it’s raised nearly half that amount already, and is offering those who contribute DVDs, original artwork, a vote on the movie poster design, birding trips and more. The Golden Eagle Audubon Society and the North American Bluebird Society also are partners in the film; there’s more info here.
Popular PBS antiques show makes pit stop in Boise
Saturday, July 6, 2013
Idaho Press Tribune/Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — John Nye had excellent news for an Idaho couple about a Chippendale chest that’s been in the family since the 18th century.

The appraiser said their piece would bring up to $20,000 at auction and sell for two or three times that at retail. “Maybe my hearing aid isn’t working,” said the owner, Nancy of Whitebird, with a laugh. “I didn’t quite get that.”

Nancy and her husband, Bruce, scored twice at Saturday’s taping of “Antiques Roadshow,” the PBS series that draws 10 million viewers a week and made its first-ever Idaho stop. The chest of drawers and two domed wood boxes and their contents were among about 90 items picked for on-camera appraisal. Nancy presented the tiger maple chest, which she uses to store heirlooms including papers and photos. Bruce presented the boxes, which date from 1822, with his future daughter-in-law, Starr from Boise. Inside was a 200-year-old needlework sampler, stitched by a relative, Mary Churchill, and found in a New Hampshire attic.

“We have nearly a museum in our home,” said Nancy, illustrating why Roadshow producers ask that guests be identified only by first name and town. “We’re a family of hoarders ... well, treasure keepers.”

Nancy was thrilled their stuff was singled out, but watched an ancient bubble burst: A family legend about a relative, Edward Holyoke, who was president of Harvard University from 1737 to 1769, appears to be wrong. The story goes that Holyoke either owned or crafted the chest. Alas, the style of the piece puts it 30 years after Holyoke’s death. “The timelines don’t jive,” said Nye, of Bloomfield, N.J.

At the show’s core are the narratives behind the objects, but Roadshow’s appraisers don’t hold back from debunking them, said supervising producer Sam Farrell. “Family stories are often colorful and interesting, but they’re frequently not accurate,” she said.

An estimated 5,000-6,000 people patiently waited Saturday, typically for 90 minutes or so. A lottery entered by 15,000 people distributed 3,000 pairs of free tickets. About 500 people made a contribution of $200 or more to Idaho Public TV for tickets, and a few others went to VIPs, including Sen. Jim Risch and Lt. Gov. Brad Little.

The event was held at Expo Idaho on the Western Idaho Fairgrounds, an unusually small venue for the program, now taping its 18th season. Tents were added and a second building used. “The people at Expo Idaho have risen to the challenge,” said associate producer Jill Giles. The things people carried were schlepped in on a dizzying array of conveyances: wheeled luggage, baby strollers, 150-quart Igloo coolers, oxygen carts and wagons. One handmade dolly looked like the Joa family truck in “Grapes of Wrath,” with a huge bench topped with two chairs and a painting strapped to the side. Jon, a school custodian from Garden City, carried an oak Mission-style rocker on his head. Made around 1910, it belonged to his grandfather and was appraised at about $300. The ticket to the show was a birthday present from Jon’s mom, who contributed $200. “She called Public TV and got the last ticket,” he said.

At the heart of the show’s geometry are 24 specialty tables staffed by 70 volunteer appraisers - all from out of state - who pay their expenses in exchange for invaluable exposure. Everyone gets an oral appraisal, but tongues stop when a special piece emerges, drawing producers who cull items for airing. Those guests are then herded to a green room and isolated from crew and appraisers so their on-camera reactions will be spontaneous.
A Boise potter named Rick brought a pair of 17th century Chinese porcelain jars that were estimated to bring $12,000 to $18,000 at auction. “I had no idea,” he said.

Appraiser Lark Mason asked Rick, recently retired from Boise Parks and Rec, to talk about how the jars were made, including the cobalt glaze. “He didn’t disagree with me,” said a gratified Rick. “I’ve been watching the show for years. It was a big long shot to make it, when you figure there’s 5,000 people and everybody brings two pieces.”

Appraisals are filmed at four locations in a circle inside the specialty tables, with blue carpets outlining off-limit zones.

Though crowds meander in eyeshot of cameras, guests displayed a reverence for the program that would make any photo-bomber a heretic of the worst order. Donna, a retired ballroom dance studio operator from Boise, was glowing after her encounter with one of the show’s best-known appraisers, Leslie Keno, a furniture expert.

Keno appraised an 1835 child’s rocking chair at $500 to $800. “Leslie said he loved the patina,” Donna beamed. “All the kids in our family have used it.”

Keno’s twin brother, Leigh, specializes in folk art. Both wore European cut blue suits, Leslie with a blue tie, Leigh with red.

“I got to meet the Kenos!” said Dea, of Enumclaw, Wash., whose 19th-century drop-leaf side table was purchased in Connecticut expressly with the plan of attending the Roadshow. Twice, Dea failed to win tickets in the lottery for Seattle tapings; she got lucky in Boise.

Leslie Keno said it was too bad the table was missing its original brass casters, but having paid $1,000, Dea was pleased with the $2,000-$3,000 appraisal. Traveling with her mother, Dixie, both said the trip was well worth the time and expense. “We felt like Thelma and Louise coming across the mountains,” said Dixie.

The crew from the show’s producer, WGBH in Boston, numbers 45, supplemented by 15 local technicians.

“But we couldn’t do it without the volunteers,” said Ron Milton, the stage manager who warmed up the 120 local volunteers at 7:30 a.m. with a football-like pregame scrum, shouting “Roadshow!”

Among the volunteers was Boise architect Jeff Shneider, who got to wear a headset as Quad 4 Leader. “It’s like I get to hear secrets,” joked Shneider. “It’s been a kick in the pants.”