

50  
YEARS



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idahoptv.org

# GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT



**Ron Pisaneschi**  
GENERAL MANAGER

## 2D Barcode



Past GM  
Reports

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## Quotes

"I'm new to Idaho and love the excellent programming you have. Thank you." – Lauris

"Your show used to play in Seattle. I wish it still did." – Kelli



## Journey to Opportunity

Idaho Public Television is working on a project this summer called Journey to Opportunity, a half-hour documentary on Idaho's five Native American tribes and the decision to pursue higher education. This is the third project we've tackled as part of a grant from

the US Department of Education through the Idaho State Board of Education. We initially started talking about this project last November and decided that a half-hour documentary was the best way to include as many voices as possible. Journey to Opportunity aims to discover what challenges high school students at Idaho's five Native American tribes have to overcome.

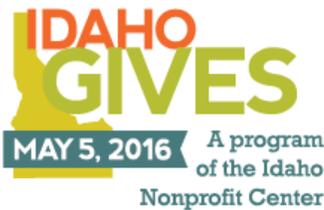
Producers Emily Border and Aaron Kunz spent a month on the road traveling across the state to meet with students, parents and educators to see how life is affecting a handful of students as they prepare to graduate high school and make the decision whether to attend college.

While home life and social pressures may be a difficulty for high school students anywhere, Idaho's Native American students face a unique set of challenges when preparing for life after high school. These challenges and pressures can determine whether a student decides to leave his or her home reservation and attend higher education in places with culture differences. In many cases, skills they learned during high school and from their parents can be the difference between going on to higher education or staying home and searching for a job.



While Journey to Opportunity focuses on the challenges high school students face, it will also feature teens who realize what they do now will determine the future of the tribe, their families, and communities. It will be an inspirational journey in locations that most don't get to see.

Journey to Opportunity is now in the writing and editing stage of production. The documentary is set to air sometime in August. Aaron Kunz will present a trailer for Journey to Opportunity at the Idaho Indian Education Summit on June 13, 2016.



Another Idaho Gives has wrapped up, and Idaho Public Television placed 11th on the Large Organization leader board with 85 donors giving \$5,195! Overall, Idaho Gives raised more than \$1 million for Idaho nonprofit organizations.

## In the Community



**Sesame Street Live, Make a New Friend – Saturday, June 11 at 2:00 p.m., at the Ford Idaho Center in Nampa**

IdahoPTV will give away seven Family Ticket Packs (six tickets in each pack) plus one Grand Prize package with four VIP floor seats and an opportunity to meet Elmo and some of his friends. Enter at [idahoptv.org](http://idahoptv.org) through June 5.

## Volunteering at the Shakespeare Festival

IdahoPTV knows the value of volunteers. That's why you will find IdahoPTV staff ushering at the Shakespeare Festival in Boise on July 9. The performance that night is "And Then There Were None."





Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson told a capacity crowd at Redfish Lake Lodge on May 21 that he often tells his House Appropriations colleagues: if you want to know how a public television station is supposed to be run, look at what Idaho Public Television and Outdoor Idaho are doing.

Simpson was speaking at the Idaho Conservation League's annual "Wild Idaho" event, where he received the ICL's public service award, which has been given to just one other Idaho leader, Governor Cecil Andrus.

Also honored at the event was Idaho Public Television's flagship production, Outdoor Idaho, which received the J. Robb Brady Award for Environmental Excellence. Outdoor Idaho host and executive producer Bruce Reichert and videographer Jay Krajic were there to interview Simpson and others for the upcoming show, "Beyond the White Clouds," airing December 4.

Reichert told the audience that "focusing on public lands issues in Idaho is not only in our wheelhouse, but that it would be a dereliction of duty for us not to engage our viewers in a discussion of the many issues that have been so important to the ICL for so long." The hourlong program on the White Clouds wilderness will explore the many issues surrounding America's newest wilderness.

While in Pocatello on May 11 for an IdahoPTV 50th Anniversary public event, Bruce Reichert and Ron Pisaneschi had time to visit some radio stations.



Bruce and Ron are on KZBQ in Pocatello being interviewed by Paul Anderson. "Fun stuff!"



Now with Kelly at KORR 104 in Pocatello. "Radio is a hoot! These guys are fun."

## Our IdahoPTV Productions

### Behind the Stories

#### Outdoor Idaho "The Health of Our Lakes"

By Joan Cartan-Hansen



Usually working on Outdoor Idaho is a change of pace for me. My major assignment at Idaho Public Television is producing Science Trek, our effort to teach science topics to elementary-age students. Producing an Outdoor Idaho is a chance to work on something totally different, but not this time. "The Health of our Lakes" is science reporting, just with an outdoor flair.

Deborah Blum, the author of the book “The Poisoner’s Handbook” (which I loved) is also a national prize-winning science writer. When she starts a science story, she writes the first paragraph and then covers up all but the first sentence. She then asks herself, “Would I want to read the second sentence?” That is the challenge to science journalism. Can you capture your audience and keep them long enough to explain the science and help them understand why they should care?

The other side of science journalism is working with scientists. Some give you the cold stare and ask how you dare reduce their body of work to a shallow sound bite. I take that challenge personally. My parents were both



chemists and I know how hard scientists work, how detailed they must be to do good research. And let’s face it; television is not the medium for fine detail. But television can reach a broad number of people and can inform people about issues important to their lives. This story was a chance to show off the work the MILES scientists and others are doing in Idaho’s lakes. It was also a chance to inform all our viewers about the importance of water quality. What is more basic and more important to all of us than clean water?

Fortunately, all of the scientists with whom we worked on this show were smart, gracious people open to sharing their work and kind enough to trust me to do my best to tell their stories. And even better, the work they do takes place in a beautiful spot. It was not too hard duty to be out on a boat in the middle of the lake on a sunny summer day.



This show required some of the Outdoor Idaho crew’s more unusual skills. Pat Metzler is a scuba diver, and he took his scuba gear and camera under the waters of Lake Coeur d’Alene to follow the scientists collecting underwater plants. It was a chance to capture a world most of us never get a chance to see ... that is, when the swirling dirt didn’t obscure his view.

Jay Krajic had to tromp through mud, twist and turn on moving boats on various shoots, as did Chuck Cathcart. These amazing videographers are the ones who make Outdoor Idaho such an incredible show to look at and enjoy. I’m grateful to all of them.

We experienced one event in filming “The Health of Our Lakes” that didn’t make it into the show. When we attended the Coeur d’Alene tribe’s ‘Water Potato Days,’ we were there to witness the tribe’s blessing of a number of handmade canoes. Out of respect for their religion, we did not film or take pictures of the blessing ceremony, but we did capture a picture just before it started.



It was a fascinating and moving ceremony and I feel lucky to have been there. Water Potato Days is so much more than just a chance to dig for a crop used by tribe members for generations. It was a chance for children throughout the area to experience the tribe’s traditional skills and understand the past. And, there is nothing like the chance to film kids playing in the mud. I couldn’t resist not putting that in the show.



I hope that viewers will come away from this show understanding that we all play a part in keeping our water supply safe, the stuff for drinking and the stuff for recreation. I also hope viewers appreciate the work these scientists are doing on our behalf. They cannot do it alone. They need everyone's involvement. There are links on this program's website to find ways to be a part of the solution in the area, or contact your local Department of Environmental Quality office. The problem of toxic blue-green algae affects everyone in our world and we all need to be aware. If viewers get those messages, then our team created a good science story, with an Outdoor Idaho style.

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## Upcoming Outdoor Idaho Shows

These are some of the shows we're working on and the order in which they'll start to appear this fall: "The Outfitters," "Almost Canada," "Beyond the White Clouds," "Where the Road Ends," "Off the Grid," and "Wild, Wild Horses." We'll tell you more about each of these down the road – and how you can be a part of some of them – because we're always interested in comments and suggestions you might have.

