



# General Manager's Report

idahoptv.org

Peter W. Morrill, Idaho Public Television  
(208) 373-7220 idptv@idahoptv.org

November 2004

## Inside this issue:

- Quote
- New OUTDOOR IDAHO: VINTAGE IDAHO Looks at Idaho's Wine Industry
- The Buzz
- IdahoPTV Staff Updates and Transitions
- IdahoPTV Signals Update
- IdahoPTV Reaches Out
- IdahoPTV October 2004 Election Re-Cap
- DIALOGUE Talks with Noble Winner Russell Hulse
- DIALOGUE Talks With Legislative Leaders
- Former U.S. Senator George McGovern Visited DIALOGUE To Talk of Alleviating Hunger, Views on National Security
- DIALOGUE Analyzes November 2 Election Results
- DIALOGUE FOR KIDS Digs for Clues About Fossils
- DIALOGUE FOR KIDS Soared to the Moon in October
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game Film Featured on Public Television Special
- More Articles On IdahoPTV

## QUOTE

"About 100 people of diverse backgrounds and political views took part in Deliberation Day Oct. 16 at Boise State University. The participants spent hours discussing national security and other issues. They went to the polls more knowledgeable than ever.

We need constructive dialogue like that. Effective government depends on informed citizens and the competition of ideas."

Idaho Statesman Editorial, November 3, 2004, on the IdahoPTV sponsored "Deliberation Day" in collaboration with the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer and Boise State University Department of Public Policy. The editorial offered good lessons of the past fall campaign season for selecting candidates and engaging voters.

## NEW OUTDOOR IDAHO: VINTAGE IDAHO LOOKS AT IDAHO'S WINE INDUSTRY

— Airs Sunday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m. MT/PT

Originally the largest wine producer in the Northwest, Idaho's bounty was crushed under the weight of prohibition. Only recently has the state's wine culture been reborn amid the sagebrush. This lush one-hour program takes you into the vineyards and behind the scenes in wineries from Boise to Sandpoint, to bring you a year in the life of Idaho wineries. Find out how wines from the "Potato State" are carving out a prominent spot on the wine trail map and Idaho's economic future.

## the buzz

For more Buzz, checkout [idahoptv.org](http://idahoptv.org)

-On November 1, 2004, CableOne announced its sponsorship for the next eleven months of the IdahoPTV "On-line Membership Challenge." Over the next year, CableOne's sponsorship will match membership pledges made to IdahoPTV, up to \$20,000 through [idahoptv.org](http://idahoptv.org). The greatest benefit to IdahoPTV for individuals to make on-line pledges is the cost savings of processing.

-Idaho Public Television is hopping-happy to announce that Microsoft has made an in-kind donation grant of software totaling an incredible \$121,429.50. This donation will obviously save IdahoPTV a significant amount of software upgrade funds as we move to agency-wide adoption of Windows XP. We are very grateful for their support of our statewide services.

-Idaho Public Television will be partnering with the Idaho Weed Commission to distribute 400 copies of "Outdoor Idaho: War of the Weeds" to schools statewide. Idaho and the West are fighting a war that may be unwinnable. Invaders with strange sounding names -- leafy spurge, dalmatian toadflax, tansy ragwort -- are costing Americans billions of dollars each year, and the end is nowhere in sight. The BLM estimates that, here in the West, we lose three thousand acres a day to invasive species, like rush skeletonweed, spotted knapweed, and yellow starthistle. These outlaw species are attacking us where we work...where we play...on land...and in the water. This program will be a significant tool for school and students to gain a better understanding of this significant Idaho resource issue.

-On November 5, Idaho Public Television staff spent the day with newly hired Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) Major Giving Initiative consultant Jim Lewis. Mr. Lewis, former Director of Development for Oregon Public Broadcasting, has been assigned to work with IdahoPTV over the next 12-18 months assisting us in enhancing our major giving practices. The CPB contract calls for him to work with IdahoPTV up to 15 days in Idaho. This first meeting was an orientation meeting.

-On November 25, at 8:00 p.m. MT/PT, IdahoPTV will broadcast "Hymns of Thanksgiving," filmed at the Morrison Center, Boise State University. This is a collaborative project including KTVB, Boise; Celebration in Music, Inc.; and IdahoPTV. This concert will feature 13 compositions arranged and performed by local artists and a local orchestra. The music will range from patriotic to anthems of praise. Governor Dirk Kempthorne and First Lady Patricia Kempthorne are the narrators of the concert.

-On December 3, 2:30/1:30 p.m. MT/PT, IdahoPTV will broadcast the third annual "2004 Read to Me" with First Lady Patricia Kempthorne, hosted by Joan Cartan-Hansen. The "Read to Me" initiative is part of a nationwide project of the National Governors' Conference that First Ladies from the country read to school age children.

-Wednesday, January 6, 2005, at 8:00 p.m. MT/PT, is the tentative airtime for "2004 Idaho Arts Awards" sponsored by the Idaho Commission on the Arts. This program was produced by TVTV Inc., Boise, Idaho.

## IDAHOPTV STAFF UPDATES AND TRANSITIONS

-IdahoPTV employee and Army Reservist Lee Henkel update:

October 17, 2004 article from the Idaho/Spokesman Review

"150 reserve soldiers (including Lee Henkel) from the 659th Engineer Company, Construction Support, headed from Spokane to Fort Lewis, Washington, for intense training before heading overseas early next year where they will be paving roads and airstrips in Iraq.

It is not clear that they will be able to visit their families for the holidays, but Maj. Gen. Lawrence Johnson said that if the soldiers can get a break from training at Thanksgiving and Christmas, he will make sure they have transportation to get home."

The full article is contained below.

-Congratulations to Kelly Hagans who has accepted the position of PTV Development Associate. Kelly will oversee IdahoPTV's DVD/Video Store and Telemarketing activities in the marketing and development department. Previously Kelly held the position at IdahoPTV of Customer Service Representative II.

## IDAHOPTV SIGNALS UPDATE

-As of October 6, 2004, Idaho Public Television is now available to DirectTV customers in the Treasure Valley area.

-At press time for this month's GM Report, CableOne was set to inaugurate service for their customers for providing IdahoPTV's spectacular high definition television service to subscribers in the Pocatello, Idaho Falls, Blackfoot, St. Anthony, Shelley, Rexburg, Ririe and Sugar City areas.

-Construction work on IdahoPTV: KUID United States Department of Agriculture/Rural Utility Service (RUS) Grant has concluded for the winter.

We were able to bury a new power line to the Juliaetta translator building in preparation for new building and new translator next summer.

-Replaced antenna at Preston Translator site: A severe fall thunderstorm destroyed the antenna at the Preston site. Franklin County Translator District, assisted by IdahoPTV field engineer JD Davis, assembled a new tower and set our antenna in early October. Performance of the new antenna is reportedly better than the old unit.

## IDAHOPTV REACHES OUT

-November 20 Fund Raiser for IdahoPTV At The Boise Art Museum

Idaho Public Television is pleased to announce a special benefit event coming on November 20 at 7:00 p.m. at the Boise Art Museum. This event gives us the opportunity to celebrate fine Idaho wines in collaboration with the Idaho Wine Commission, Idaho Public Television productions, and the people who craft them both. Proceeds from the event benefit the Idaho Public Television Foundation.

The event features the non-broadcast premiere showing of OUTDOOR IDAHO's newest production "Vintage Idaho." Several of the film's winemakers will be on-hand to share a sampling of their wines with guests, and Mortimer's Idaho Cuisine will provide hors d'oeuvres.

A silent auction will showcase a beautiful selection of items for bid — a great opportunity for early Christmas gift shopping! Advance tickets can be purchased for \$20.00 per person. The admission price includes a souvenir customized wine glass and an evening full of fun, food, and entertainment.

To purchase tickets, call 208-373-7220 or 800-543-6868.

-Upcoming Presentations and Events During The Idaho Legislature

-IdahoPTV FY'06 Budget Request Presentation: TBD

-Digital Government Day, February 9, 9am-4pm, Idaho State Capitol

-"IdahoPTV's Best" Local Programs and Services Overview:

-Gold Room, Idaho State Capitol, February 10, Noon-1pm & 3pm-4:30pm

-In October, IdahoPTV concluded our around the state fall viewer previews with events in Coeur d'Alene and Moscow. In addition, IdahoPTV Producer John Crancer was the guest on North Idaho College's "North Idaho College Forum" to discuss his new local production entitled "Outdoor Idaho: Jewel of the North" a profile of Priest Lake. This program will air statewide in December.

Many thanks for the success of these statewide events go to the companies that help underwrite the costs including:

Boise: Sports Pub & Grill, Fulton Street Theatre, Boise Co-Op, Edwards Greenhouse, Carpenter's Custom Floral

Coeur d'Alene: Greenbriar Inn

Moscow: Camas Prairie Winery, Wheatberries

Twin Falls: Turf Club, Hayden Beverage, Glambia Foods, Moss Greenhouse, ConAgra/Lamb Weston, S&W Produce

Idaho Falls: Willard Art Center, Rutabags, Shilling House, Golden Eagle Sales, Intermountain Beverage

Pocatello: Westside Players Theatre, Sandpiper, Continental Bistro, Intermountain Beverage

-Upcoming Meetings of Idaho Public Television's Friends Boards

-Friends of Idaho Public Television: KAID/KIPT, Wednesday, November 17, Noon.

-Friends of Idaho Public Television: KISU, Wednesday, November 17

-Friends of Idaho Public Television: KUID/KCDT, Wednesday, December 1

## IDAHOPTV OCTOBER 2004 ELECTION RE-CAP

The 2004 Elections generated an unprecedented amount of interest among voters. Likewise, Idaho Public Television's coverage of the issues and the candidates was also unprecedented. During the month of October, we undertook three major projects: "First Vote," "Deliberation Day," and "The Idaho Debates."

"First Vote" featured a diverse group of first-time voters talking about the upcoming election and the issues involved. The hour program aired Thursday, October 7, as a DIALOGUE special. Host Marcia Franklin talked with fifteen young voters about their views on the war in Iraq, why they were planning to vote, and how they will make their decision. "First Vote" was funded by MacNeil/Lehrer Productions, as part of their "By the People" initiative. Idaho Public Television was one of a handful of stations awarded a grant to produce a television program. By all accounts, "First Vote" was an engaging discussion with a sharp group of young Idahoans.

"Deliberation Day" brought together 117 randomly selected citizens for a discussion about two topics -- jobs and national security. The participants spent the better part of a Saturday in October in small discussion groups and a larger plenary session. "Deliberation Day" featured a first-time collaboration with Boise State University's Department of Public Policy and Administration. Moderators for the group discussions were drawn from the University, as well as the city of Boise. The plenary session experts included Lt. Governor Jim Risch, Boise Representative Margaret Henbest, economist John Church, and BSU political scientist Ross Burkhart.

The resulting television program, "Time To Choose," which aired Thursday, October 21, allowed the entire nation to view some of our "Deliberation Day" discussion. Idaho Public Television was one of seventeen stations awarded a grant by MacNeil/Lehrer Productions to produce a "Deliberation Day" event; and we had the second highest attendance in the nation at our event.

"The Idaho Debates" is a staple of our election coverage. Produced in cooperation with The League of Women Voters and The Idaho Press Club, these debates have become the gold standard for the candidates and the public. That was the case again this year, as Congressman Butch Otter and challenger Naomi Preston met in a one hour debate that aired live, statewide, on Sunday, October 24. The Second Congressional Debate, featuring Congressman Mike Simpson and challenger Lin Whitworth, aired live, statewide, on Thursday, October 28.

Coupled with the two hour-long Congressional Debates, and the hour-long "First Vote" and "Time to Choose," we also produced a significant amount of web material for each project. They are under the "Election 2004" banner on our home page at <http://idahoptv.org/election2004/>.

All in all, this October has represented a significant effort on the part of our Production Team, to enhance the democratic process.

Detailed accounts of each project are included below.

## DIALOGUE TALKS WITH NOBLE WINNER RUSSELL HULSE

-- Aired Thursday, December 23 at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT  
-- Repeated Sunday, December 26 at 5:30/4:30 p.m. MT/PT

Is scientific study just like a good detective story? Do we teach science effectively in our schools? One man has decided making science education fun should be his life's work. This week, host Joan Cartan-Hansen speaks with Russell Hulse, a Noble prize winning physicist, about his work to improve science education as part of life long learning.

Hulse and his thesis advisor Joseph Taylor Jr. discovered the first binary pulsar, a twin star system that is, in effect, a natural laboratory to test aspects of Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity. For this work, Hulse and Taylor were jointly awarded the Nobel prize for physics in 1993. Their discovery is considered by many as among the top scientific discoveries of the 20th century.

Hulse and host Joan Cartan-Hansen will also discuss the significance of his research into pulsars, and micro air vehicles and about his work to improve science education in schools and museums. Hulse was in Boise speaking at the Discovery Center of Idaho.

Because this show is taped, no phone calls will be taken.

## DIALOGUE TALKS WITH LEGISLATIVE LEADERS

-- Aired Thursday, December 2 at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT  
-- Repeats Sunday, December 5 at 5:30/4:30 p.m. MT/PT

Idaho's Legislators are gearing up for a new session. This week on Dialogue, host Joan Cartan-Hansen will speak with the leaders of Idaho's House and Senate about the major issues expected to cause controversy in the 58th Legislature. Host Joan Cartan-Hansen is tentatively scheduled to talk with Rep. Bruce Newcomb, Speaker of the House; Sen. Bob Geddes, Pro Tem; Rep. Wendy Jaquet, House Minority Leader; and Sen. Clint Stennett, Senate Minority Leader. Issues include two major water rights questions, gay marriage, and transportation changes. Viewers are encouraged to call in with their questions.

## FORMER U.S. SENATOR GEORGE MCGOVERN VISITED DIALOGUE TO TALK OF ALLEVIATING HUNGER, VIEWS ON NATIONAL SECURITY

— Aired Thursday, November 11 at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT  
— Repeated Sunday, November 14 at 5:30/4:30 p.m. MT/PT

Former U.S. Senator George McGovern from South Dakota appeared on DIALOGUE where he talked about his work to alleviate world hunger.

McGovern, the Democratic candidate for President in 1972 and a self-proclaimed liberal, today joins forces with former U.S. Senator Robert Dole, Republican candidate for President in 1996, to help feed children in developing countries around the world.

DIALOGUE host Joan Cartan-Hansen talked with McGovern about this work, his other projects since leaving public office, and his views on what the nation needs to do to improve national security.

Because this is a pre-taped DIALOGUE interview, there were no live call-in segments.

The show is available for later viewing on the IdahoPTV Web site ([idahoptv.org/dialogue](http://idahoptv.org/dialogue)).

## DIALOGUE ANALYZES NOVEMBER 2 ELECTION RESULTS

-- Aired Thursday, November 4 at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT  
-- Repeated Sunday, November 7 at 5:30/4:30 p.m. MT/PT

Host Joan Cartan-Hansen and guests reflected on the 2004 state election results on this episode of DIALOGUE. Cartan-Hansen was joined on-air by reporter Greg Hahn of The Idaho Statesman, Betsy Russell of the Spokesman-Review and Corey Taule of the Idaho Falls Post-Register.

Two days after Idahoans voted for U.S. senator, U.S. representative, State Legislature and county officials, reporters shared their view of the results. Cartan-Hansen and guests took calls from viewers on a toll-free line.

## DIALOGUE FOR KIDS DIGS FOR CLUES ABOUT FOSSILS

-- Airs, Tuesday, November 16 at 2:00/1:00 p.m. MT/PT

DIALOGUE FOR KIDS excavates evidence about fossils in November with paleontologist Phil Gensler and fossil preparer Mary Carpenter.

The remains of plants and animals from prehistoric times, fossils tell scientists much about past environments and what creatures such as Idaho's Hagerman Horse were like.

Gensler talks about the recent discovery of a mastodon tusk at Hagerman Fossil Beds. Experts have said the discovery led them to hope they are close to a mastodon head. Gensler and Carpenter also answered questions about where fossils are found and how paleontologists interpret their finds.

Host Joan Cartan-Hansen, Gensler and Carpenter will take calls from students statewide on a toll-free line. Questions can also be sent by e-mail and fax.

Additional information and links regarding fossils can be found at the DIALOGUE FOR KIDS Web site ([idahoptv.org/dialogue4kids/](http://idahoptv.org/dialogue4kids/)). The broadcast program, in addition to being audio- and video-streamed live on the Web, also will remain available in the DIALOGUE FOR KIDS archive on the Web site.

DIALOGUE FOR KIDS, produced by Idaho Public Television, airs the third Tuesday of the month throughout the school year and focuses on a variety of science-related topics.

## DIALOGUE FOR KIDS SOARED TO THE MOON IN OCTOBER

-- Aired Tuesday, October 19 at 2:00/1:00 p.m. MT/PT

DIALOGUE FOR KIDS rocketed to the moon for explorations in October with geology experts Leslie Baker and Scott Hughes.

Baker and Hughes shared their knowledge about the geology that exists on the moon — a surface covered with craters, mountain ranges and lava plains.

Host Joan Cartan-Hansen, Baker, and Hughes took calls from students statewide on a toll-free line. Questions were also sent by e-mail or in advance by FAX.

Baker, a research scientist at the University of Idaho, grew up in Maryland and earned her master's and doctorate degrees in geology from Brown University. She is currently working on research related to chemical and geological evidence for water on Mars, as well as on Earth-bound geochemical problems.

Hughes is the chair of the department of geosciences at Idaho State University and affiliate director of the NASA Idaho Space Grant Consortium. A native of Virginia, Hughes became fascinated with volcanoes at an early age. He studies the chemistry of volcanic rocks from the moon and conducts research on rocks from the deep crust of the Earth and on land surfaces that are similar to Mars.

Additional information and links regarding the moon can be found at the DIALOGUE FOR KIDS Web site ([idahoptv.org/dialogue4kids/](http://idahoptv.org/dialogue4kids/)). The broadcast program, in addition to being audio- and video-streamed live on the Web, also will remain available in the DIALOGUE FOR KIDS archive on the Web site.

## IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME FILM FEATURED ON PUBLIC TELEVISION SPECIAL

— Aired Wednesday, October 13 at 10:00 p.m. MT/PT

THE INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE FILM FESTIVAL SHOWCASE 2004 featured three of the top award-winning films from Montana's International Wildlife Film Festival. This year, a film by Idaho's Department of Fish and Game about predators and prey was one of the winning pieces. IDFG produced the film in conjunction with IdahoPTV's DIALOGUE FOR KIDS to teach children about the dynamic relationship between predators, such as wolves, birds of prey and bears, and their prey.

Others to take top honors include a look at underwater life between the reefs in Indonesia and witnessing the return of the eagles in Alaska.

The International Wildlife Film Festival was founded as the world's first juried wildlife film competition in 1977 with a mission to foster knowledge and understanding of wildlife and habitat through honest wildlife films. The showcase of winning films is hosted by Janet Rose.

## MORE ARTICLES ON IDAHOPTV

### **DIALOGUE Highlights First-Time Voters in Studio Discussion About Political Views, War in Iraq**

DIALOGUE: FIRST VOTE aired Thursday, October 14 at 9:00 p.m. MT/PT and repeated Sunday, October 17 at 5:00/4:00 p.m. MT/PT

In this special hour-long edition of DIALOGUE, 14 first-time voters come together in a studio setting to talk about the upcoming election and the issues involved. The Idaho university students and one high school senior studied national topics and their personal beliefs to express with one another.

As part of the national PBS BY THE PEOPLE initiative ([www.by-the-people.org](http://www.by-the-people.org)), host Marcia Franklin talked with the 14 men and women about their views on the war in Iraq, why they're voting and how they will make their decision.

Young people represent a sizable block of potential voters and the major campaigns are courting their ballots. Ever since 18- to 20-year-olds gained the right to vote 30 years ago, they've voted less and less. The last presidential election, only 42 percent of 18- to 24-year-olds turned out to vote, while 70 percent of older citizens voted. This year is looking better. A Pew Poll found that 53 percent of registered voters ages 18 to 30 have given "quite a bit of thought" to the election compared with 35 percent in 2000.

FIRST VOTE brought the young population into the conversation to find out what individuals are thinking and to better understand a young person's outlook on politics. There was a companion Web site at [idahoptv.org](http://idahoptv.org) where young voters could express their opinions.

"We're excited to be able to devote this amount of time to hear from such an important element of our voting society," says producer and host Franklin.

Financial support for BY THE PEOPLE is provided by MacNeil/Lehrer Productions and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

### **Idahoans Take Part in National PBS Polling Initiative; IdahoPTV Contributes Footage to National Program**

TIME TO CHOOSE: A BY THE PEOPLE ELECTION SPECIAL

— Aired Thursday, October 21 at 7:00 p.m. MT/PT

More than 100 Idahoans took part in a national Deliberation Polling effort organized by MacNeil-Lehrer Productions of Arlington, Virginia.

One hundred seventeen participants of a random sample from 10 Southwest Idaho counties took part in a recent daylong discussion of national issues, called Deliberation Day, at Boise State University. Each of the eight small-group discussions contained diverse views, ages, income and geographic distribution, and each discussed two topics — national security and the economy.

Video segments from the event were submitted for the national show, TIME TO CHOOSE: A BY THE PEOPLE ELECTION SPECIAL, with Jim Lehrer as host. The program featured results of the polling effort conducted in 19 areas of the United States and explores the different perspectives citizens bring to national issues. In Idaho, the show features a full 24 minutes of the Gem State discussions among participants, taped and edited by IdahoPTV into two eight-minute and two four-minute segments.

The polls and program are an element of the national initiative, By the People: America in the World, a MacNeil-Lehrer Productions project, with major funding from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. The project is also part of the PBS By the People election enterprise.

Deliberative Polling brings random representative samples of voters together for discussion of key political issues. Participants are surveyed before, during and after the discussion event to determine their views throughout the exchange of information.

The Idaho portion of the project has been a collaborative effort of: IdahoPTV; Department of Public Policy and Administration at BSU; Idaho League of Women Voters; Idaho Press Club; Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce; and The Idaho Statesman newspaper.

Guild Group Incorporated (GGI) conducted the random search for participants and the initial survey of the sample.

### **IDAHO DEBATES 2004 Brought Candidates Before a Panel to Answer Questions, Debate Issues**

idahoptv.org has an archive web-streaming of each debate

As voters prepared to cast their ballots, Idaho Public Television continued the tradition of featuring candidates facing off about topics important to Idahoans in IDAHO DEBATES 2004. For more than two decades, the League of Women Voters of Idaho and the Idaho Press Club have brought the candidates before voters statewide via Idaho Public Television. Two debates were scheduled for candidates running in the November 2 election for the U.S. House of Representatives in Idaho's First and Second Congressional Districts.

The IDAHO DEBATES 2004 kicked off with the debate for the First Congressional District seat between Representative C.L. "Butch" Otter (Republican) and Naomi Preston (Democrat) as they share their opinions, solutions and values with voters. The debate between First Congressional District Representative candidates aired Sunday, October 24 at 8:00 p.m. MT/PT.

The second debate in the IDAHO DEBATES 2004 is for the First Congressional District seat between Representative Michael Simpson (Republican) and challenger Lin Whitworth (Democrat). The debate between Second Congressional District Representative candidates aired Thursday, October 28 at 8:00/7:00 p.m. MT/PT.

Boise State Radio NPR News 91 provided listeners with a simulcast of both of the debates. KBYI in Rexburg simulcasted the Second Congressional District debate.

Joan Cartan-Hansen and Marcia Franklin were hosts and moderators for the two IDAHO DEBATES 2004 programs.

Candidates answered questions posed by a panel of prominent journalists from around the state. Idahoans submitted and suggested questions for the candidates at idahoptv.org.

Live streaming video of the debates was posted at idahoptv.org and is archived for later viewing. The site has various components, including relevant news articles and editorials, biographies, photographs and statements from candidates, information regarding voter registration and links to other Web resources.

DIALOGUE also aired a program after the election allowing viewers to participate in a statewide conversation reflecting on election results.

### **Young Voters 'Speak From The Heart' For IPTV**

By Diane Ronayne

Special to The Idaho Statesman, Edition Date: 10-13-2004

Not since the years of the Vietnam War have young adults had such a personal stake in a presidential election and the potential to determine who wins. What do they think about the Middle East war? About the candidates? About the issues?

To find out, Idaho Public Television producer Marcia Franklin identified and engaged a representative sample of 18- to 22-year-olds in a videotaped conversation. It airs as "First Vote," a special hourlong "Dialogue," at 9 p.m. Thursday (repeating Sunday at 5 p.m.). On the program, Mikal Neff, Kylie Boggess, Kent Gneiting, Colby Patchen, Danish Ishaq, Israel Carr, Gunnar Larsen, David Lee, Karissa Murrell, Sara Goldstein, Jackeline Rodriguez, Maryam Mesmarian, Jillian Johnson and Karen Dewey candidly reveal their hopes and concerns about the candidates and their own future.

After seeing the tape, IPTV General Manager Peter Morrill told me, "These are real teens speaking from the heart. And Marcia did what Marcia always does — she brings great passion and personal connection to her topics."

### **150 Soldiers Leave For Iraq Duty: Engineer Company Heads To Fort Lewis For Training Before Deployment Overseas**

By Trinity Hartman, Staff writer, Idaho Spokesman Review, October 16, 2004

Three buses pulled out of the Spokane Industrial Park on Friday carrying soldiers who will spend the next year paving roads and airstrips in Iraq.

The 150 reserve soldiers from the 659th Engineer Company, Construction Support, headed to Fort Lewis, where they will get intense training before heading overseas early next year.

As the coach buses left, the high school marching band packed up. Family members let go of yellow helium balloons, which floated up and out of sight.

Left behind at the Walker Reserve Center on Friday were the soldiers' parents, siblings and spouses. After an emotional farewell, they had a pressing question for the U.S. Army officers who stood on the grass before them: Will the soldiers be able to join family for Thanksgiving and Christmas?

“Christmas, it’s going to be in doubt. I’ll tell you that right now, up front,” Lt. Col. Michael Hoxie, commander of the 321st Engineer Battalion, told the approximately 130 family members who stayed after the farewell ceremony to find out what support they can expect from the Army during the upcoming year. “We might – and I stress might – be able to let them come home. We’ll work to see what we can do, when we can.”

Family members clapped when Maj. Gen. Lawrence Johnson said that if the soldiers can get a break from training at Thanksgiving and Christmas, he will make sure they have transportation to get home.

“We will take care of your soldier,” Johnson said.

A dozen members of Laura Vasquez’s family came from Othello, Wash., to say goodbye to the 23-year-old, who will serve as a clerk in the unit.

Before getting on the bus, Vasquez hugged family as she held a small American flag. Vasquez said she hopes to be home for Thanksgiving, possibly with her new husband, Jaime Cardenas, whom she met in the unit and married a year ago.

Vasquez is a student who wants to become a school psychologist. Until she was deployed, Vasquez worked part time at a middle school in the Tri-Cities as a para-educator. Vasquez felt called to serve her country while sitting in class two years ago. She called up an Army recruiter and hasn’t doubted the decision since. Vasquez and Cardenas – who was already at Fort Lewis and didn’t attend the ceremony – will go to Iraq together.

But having Cardenas with her hasn’t made it any easier to think about being so far away from family, Vasquez said.

“It’s just really hard to leave our families behind, but we’ve got to do it,” said Vasquez. “We’re just going to go, rebuild, help them do whatever needs to be done.”

The unit is made up of Army Reserve soldiers from engineer units Washington, Idaho, Oregon and Utah. The soldiers will work north of Baghdad. Some of the mission sites will be outside of a secure area, and the unit will be trained to defend itself, Hoxie told families Friday.

“I’m not going to sugarcoat this for you,” Hoxie told the family members after the ceremony. “Trust me, I want every soldier to come home just like you do.”