



General Manager's Report

idahoptv.org

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

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QUOTE

"I was impressed with the professionalism and quality of the presentations."

Mark Mediola, Employee Communications and Public Affairs Administrator, AMI Semiconductor, Pocatello, in a note to IdahoPTV after attending a public event outlining the fall schedule of national and local programs and services.

IDAHOPTV STAFFER DEPLOYED TO IRAQ

It is with solemn pride that on Friday, September 10, IdahoPTV staff bade IdahoPTV Webmaster Lee Henkel Godspeed as he began his deployment to Iraq. Boise based Lee is a First Lieutenant in the Army Reserve's 659th Engineer Company. His deployment will be about 18 months. Lee is married to Christine, and have a six-month-old baby boy. IdahoPTV truly runs in the Henkel family. Christine's mom, Lynn Allen, conducts Ready To Learn seminars for IdahoPTV and has served in several capacities at IdahoPTV over the years. I am including an article on the 659th published recently in the Spokesman Review for your review at the bottom of this month's GM Report. I will keep you apprised of Lee's activities in the coming months and will, as no doubt you do, look forward to his earliest return.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AWARDS IDAHOPTV EMERGENCY GRANT

On Friday (September 24), we received written notification from the United States Department of Commerce, Public Telecommunications Facilities Program (PTFP), that IdahoPTV has been awarded an emergency grant of \$158,745 to assist us in the replacement of the production video switcher in Boise.

In late June, IdahoPTV's thirty-two year old Grass Valley 1600 ceased operation as a result of repeated power fluctuations caused by weather adverse local weather. Since then, we've been actively searching for funding options that would allow us to replace this key piece of production equipment that enables DIALOGUE, DIALOGUE FOR KIDS, THE IDAHO DEBATES, IDAHO REPORTS and other studio based programs to be produced.

This major emergency replacement grant from PTFP joins support that we recently received from the James and Barbara Cimino Foundation (\$15,000) and the Idaho State Broadcasters Association (\$5,000). IdahoPTV is continuing the search for the remaining \$33,000 that will complete the required local match to the PTFP grant.

In related news, on Monday, September 19, IdahoPTV was informed that the state's insurance will not cover any portion of the needed replacement costs apparently because the cause of the power fluctuations was lightning induced which is exempted from the policy.

I'd like to take a moment to congratulate to Kelly Roberts, Rich Van Genderen, Ted Poe and Phillip Kottraba for all their hard work on this grant application. Additional thanks go to Jeff Tucker and Kim Philipps.

the buzz

For more Buzz, checkout idahoptv.org

-Corporation for Public Broadcasting System Review Update

On the heels of Hurricane Ivan on Tuesday, September 28 with a two day meeting, CPB began what is intended to be an eighteen month system review of its programs and services. CPB is the congressionally mandated organization that oversees public broadcasting in the United States.

As co-chair of OSBE (Organization of State Broadcast Executives representing 26 statewide public television broadcasters) I will be assisting CPB with a systematic review of their services to public television stations. Travel costs for the anticipated monthly meetings will be borne by CPB. This is the first time that CPB has conducted a system review using chartered representative groups representing public television stations. Previous reviews have used CPB appointed representatives.

The first meeting was dedicated to allowing the representative groups to organize the inter-group processes. The next meeting is anticipated to occur in December.

In October and November, both CPB and PBS will hold regional, daylong consultation meetings with all stations. I will be reporting in coming editions of the GM Report on the progress of this initiative.

-On Wednesday, September 15, Dr. Richard Bowen and Peter Morrill agreed to begin a process that is expected to initiate a new relationship between IdahoPTV and Idaho State University. This relationship will result in new local programming and a more effective use of ISU and IdahoPTV facilities in the coming years. After nearly fourteen months of discussion, we will begin a planning process that we hope will result in the co-location and co-utilization of the School of Communications/ISU, IdahoPTV and KISU-FM in the Liberal Arts Building by the year 2007. This move will coincide with IdahoPTV's planned update of studio production facilities in Pocatello that are more than thirty years old and the opening of the Rendezvous Center, which will allow for additional space capacity at ISU. On September 27, IdahoPTV staff met with Denton Dance, ISU Architect, to discuss technical needs of a combined facility. Dr. Bowen and I will keep you posted on the details of this exciting initiative as they are finalized this fall and winter.

-On October 15, IdahoPTV will begin its yearly audit conducted by the Legislative Auditor of Legislative Services. The audit is anticipated to last approximately four weeks.

-Beginning late this fall, Idaho Public Television will begin offering free to learners statewide through its video streaming service at idahoptv.org, new educational learning materials from the CPB/Annenberg Channel. Online video programs and related teaching materials have broad topic range and total up to 1000 hours.

-Many thanks to retired Secretary of State Pete Cenarrusa, John Elorriaga and the Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation for their financial support of the upcoming documentary BASQUES IN IDAHO (working title). This IdahoPTV special production, Jim Peck, Producer, will look at the Basque culture from its origins in the Basque country of northern Spain to Idaho. IdahoPTV is also preparing an educational outreach component that if fully funded, will be distributed free to Idaho schools, libraries and museums. The production is slated for broadcast in March 2005.

IDAHOPTV STAFF TRANSITIONS

-As reported in August, IdahoPTV Development Director Joan Hill Yost retired in late August. IdahoPTV's Development Associate, Ramona Dopps has been promoted to Development Director.

-Frances Drake, Major and Planned Giving Director, has resigned and Deb Furey has been hired as her replacement. Deb served as Director of the Epilepsy Foundation and most recently as Office Specialist II for IdahoPTV.

-Tony Howard has been hired as to replace Deb Furey as Office Specialist II.

IDAHOPTV SIGNALS UPDATE

-For those of you who enjoy IdahoPTV's high definition service via over the air reception or via cable in Twin Falls, Idaho Falls, Pocatello, Moscow, Mountain Home and Coeur d'Alene, you've probably been wondering why it has been off since Saturday, September 15. As of this writing (September 27, 2004), the sole and principle device that allows us to broadcast that HD service is in the repair shop in Florida waiting for a part to be sent from Sweden. The non-functioning high definition encoder is a critical piece of equipment that unfortunately we only have one unit due to the cost...approximately \$50,000. IdahoPTV HD service to CableOne Boise and West Valley continues un-affected by this problem. We hope to restore service by early October.

-In early September, DishTV began offering Idaho Public Television and other local channels in the Idaho Falls/Pocatello market.

-On Friday, September 24, Adelphia Cable/Bonnars Ferry notified Idaho Public Television that it will move our service from cable lineup channel 12 to channel 9 on October 15, 2004.

-In September, IdahoPTV technicians performed system upgrades that have improved our signal delivery to Challis and Salmon viewers. The microwave radios that feed our signals to the two sites were overhauled and are now operating at peak efficiency.

IDAHOPTV REACHES OUT

-In September Idaho Public Television began the first of a series of public presentations across the state. Eight events in southern Idaho showcased IdahoPTV's new fall programs and services. These events attracted nearly 1000 people, and took place in Boise, Idaho Falls, Pocatello and Twin Falls. North Idaho is the destination in October, with presentations in Coeur d'Alene and Moscow. On November 20 a fundraiser and the world premier of OUTDOOR IDAHO's latest special, "Vintage Idaho" is presented at the Boise Art Gallery to benefit Idaho Public Television.

-Bruce Reichert, on September 13, introduced Academy Award winning actor George Kennedy at the Idaho Commission on Aging Conference in Boise.

-IdahoPTV Producer Marcia Franklin addressed the Idaho Environmental Forum on September 14, on her Pew Foundation funded trip to Iran, which resulted in the nationally distributed television production "From Idaho to Iran."

-In addition, Marcia spoke to the Rotary Club of Boise on Monday, September 20, on the television program "From Idaho to Iran."

-On September 22, Idaho Public Television videotaped a message from the Chair of the Idaho State Employees Charitable Giving Campaign, Winston Wiggins, Director, Idaho Department of Lands. The message will be played at local meetings around the state and streamed on the web via IdahoPTV streaming servers, encouraging state employees to get involved with this year's campaign.

-Idaho Public Television hosted a live performance by Hoovia Edwards and a screening of SOUNDMIX: FIVE YOUNG MUSICIANS at the Mystique Theatre in Pocatello on October 6, 2004. Hoovia Edwards treated the guests to a live performance of beautiful flute music. Hoovia is a young Native American flute player, a member of the Shoshone-Bannock tribe and lives on the Fort Hall Reservation. Hoovia began playing the Native American flute at age 3 and did her first professional recording at the age of 14. Hoovia played at the opening ceremonies for the 2002 Olympics in Utah and on the soundtrack for SKINWALKERS a PBS film. Hoovia is featured along with 4 other teenage musicians who are reinvigorating America musical traditions in a film called SOUNDMIX: FIVE YOUNG MUSICIANS that aired on Idaho Public Television October 7. Each story explored the music, the mentors, the cultures and the communities that fuel the passions of these young players.

-Kris Freeland, IdahoPTV Outreach and Education Director, will present overview material of IdahoPTV services entitled "Resources for the Social Studies Curriculum" to the Idaho Social Studies Conference on October 8.

IDAHOPTV RECOGNIZED

In September, IdahoPTV was awarded several honors at the Columbus International Film and Video Festival:

Outdoor Idaho: Camp Rainbow Gold, a look at the central Idaho camp for kids battling cancer, won a Bronze plaque (6 out of 7 rating points) in the Physical Health: Patient or Professional education category.

In addition, four other IdahoPTV productions won Honorable Mentions including:

- Dialogue for Kids: Space Careers
- Dialogue: Grandparents as Parents
- Moments in Time From the Journals of Lewis and Clark
- Outdoor Idaho: Designing Idaho

NEW OUTDOOR IDAHO: JEWEL OF THE NORTH

—Airs Thursday, October 14 at 8:00/7:00 p.m. MT/PT

—Repeats Sunday, October 17 at 7:00 p.m. MT/PT

Priest Lake, named for the Jesuit priests that came to Idaho in the 1840s, covers nearly 100 square miles — about 25 miles long — in a landscape carved by glaciers. The massive lower lake is connected to a small, pristine upper lake by a two-mile channel called the Thorofare. The waters are so clear and the colors so intense people sometimes mistake photographs of the area for Hawaii.

"We have pictures and people are like: Wow! Are you in Hawaii?," says Adrienne Stoll, who with her family visits the lake annually to camp. "We're like no, we're at Priest Lake. It's just so beautiful, that's why I love it."

OUTDOOR IDAHO producer John Crancer visited with residents, visitors and forest agency personnel to tell the story of this fabled spot with its crystalline waters where big mackinaws lurk. Only about one quarter of the shoreline is private, most of the greater basin is forested state and federal land.

Resident and waterskier Dave Pool says: "There's sandy beaches everywhere, that's why we call it Maui in the mountains. It's just my favorite place in the world.

The spirit and beauty of the lake have captured the imaginations of many people in the 160 years since the first Europeans saw the area. In the 1920s silent-movie star and director Nell Shipman came to the lake to make her films. Today, the area attracts campers, fishermen, hikers, boaters, rock climbers, cross-country skiers, snowmobilers, and even dog teams and sleds for a race that has been run for 35 years.

"She's got this magical embrace. If you come back here enough times it will envelop you and you won't be able to deny it," says guide and fisherman Rich Lindsey. "You'll understand the draw, the magnetism it has."

Sponsors of this program are: Boise, Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission and U.S. Bancorp Foundation.

DIALOGUE CELEBRATES A DECADE OF PROGRAMS WITH A RETROSPECTIVE LOOK AT PAST EPISODES

—Airs Thursday, October 7 at 8:00 p.m. MT/PT

—Repeats Sunday, October 10 at 5:00/4:00 p.m. MT/PT

Idaho Public Television's weekly public affairs program celebrates 10 years of programming with a special DIALOGUE that looks back at memorable episodes, topics and guests. Hosts Joan Cartan-Hansen and Marcia Franklin share clips from some of their favorite shows.

The program touches on the broad range of topics seen on DIALOGUE: the environment, politics, youth issues, social news, health care, education and the humanities. There is even a humorous look back at past hairstyles worn by Cartan-Hansen and Franklin.

Memorable episodes featured in the program include Ken Burns and Stephen Ambrose looking at the epic journey of Lewis and Clark; comedian Mark Russell sharing his humor; Ada County Sheriff Vaughn Killeen sparring with militia member Sam Sherwood; Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin reflecting on her college internship with President Lyndon Johnson; panelists debating IT'S ELEMENTARY; young students clashing over the issue of school prayer; and Governor Phil Batt looking back on his career.

Since 1994, DIALOGUE has aired more than 400 programs, bringing topics of importance to Idahoans across the state and allowing viewers a chance to call in and take part in the statewide conversation.

"There is really nothing like DIALOGUE in Idaho," says Franklin. "The program reaches the whole state, and allows viewers to interact with guests, whether they be politicians, world-class authors or scientists."

Cartan-Hansen says, "Producing and hosting DIALOGUE means a fresh challenge every week. I'm amazed at the breadth and depth of issues we've covered over the last 10 years. And we have so many new and exciting DIALOGUES to come."

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

DIALOGUE: FIRST VOTE

—Airs Thursday, October 14 at 9:00 p.m. MT/PT,

—Repeats Sunday, October 17 at 5:00/4:00 p.m. MT/PT

In this special hour-long edition of DIALOGUE, a diverse group of first-time voters comes together in a studio setting to talk about the upcoming election and the issues involved. As part of the BY THE PEOPLE initiative (www.by-the-people.org), host Marcia Franklin talks with 15 young voters 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.

ELECTION SPECIAL "TIME TO CHOOSE" COMES TO IDAHOPTV

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

On the eve of one of the most hotly contested elections in recent history, hundreds of people will gather in 17 different communities across the United States, including Idaho, to discuss not who should be elected, but how those leaders should address the issues facing national and economic security. Dubbed Deliberation Day, excerpts from these town hall meetings are included in this broadcast, which is anchored by Jim Lehrer.

Idaho Public Television and Boise State University's Department of Public Policy and Administration brought together more than 100 randomly selected citizens to discuss these issues for a day-long session, excerpts from which are included in this national broadcast.

The program covers the broad range of issues in the campaign with special emphasis on the war on terrorism and economic policy, particularly jobs. This program is made possible by MacNeil/Lehrer Productions in association with Idaho Public Television and its partners The Idaho Statesman, League of Women Voters of Idaho, Idaho Press Club, and the Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce.

NEW OUTDOOR IDAHO COVERED IDAHO'S ALIEN INVADERS IN "WAR OF THE WEEDS"

—Aired Thursday, September 16 at 8:00/7:00 p.m. MT/PT

—Repeated Sunday, September 19 at 7:00 p.m. MT/PT

They come by air, water and from underground. They steal rides in pet hair, on shoes and tires — the alien invaders known as noxious weeds are now spreading through Idaho, even into wild and remote areas.

OUTDOOR IDAHO reports from the frontlines on Idaho's war with these aliens that cause more than \$300 million damage annually statewide and threaten to change lives, livelihoods and recreational activities. A live DIAMOLOGUE show at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT continued the discussion with a panel of Idaho noxious weed experts.

"Maybe those old science fiction movies weren't so far off," says OUTDOOR IDAHO host and producer Bruce Reichert. "Maybe we are in a war of the weeds."

The program chronicles some of the damage invasive plant species cause in wilderness, rangeland, farmland and backyards. The film showed how the 36 aggressors on the state's noxious weed list are taking root in Idaho and how they can: cause erosion; eradicate native plants and grasses; create fire-prone range; poison grazing animals; damage crops; despoil recreation areas; and reduce feeding grounds for wildlife and livestock.

"Noxious weeds are like alien invaders," says Roger Batt, spokesman for Idaho's Weed awareness campaign. "If we do nothing, it will be catastrophic."

Experts in the film say the biggest obstacle in fighting the outlaw intruders is adequate public awareness of the issue.

U.S. Forest Service Chief and University of Idaho graduate Dale Bosworth says that weed growth is not as exciting on television as summer wildfires: "People don't see the change. But it's like a slow-moving wildfire, a slow-moving explosion."

Idaho is fighting back. There are several ongoing public-private collaborative projects. Weapons include an educated public, biological agents — bugs and in one case, goats — and herbicide, including a backcountry spray program using mules.

“War of the Weeds” introduces some of the assailants — rush skeleton weed, purple loosestrife, spotted knapweed, yellow star thistle, leafy spurge and more. Additional information is at the IdahoPTV Web site (idahoptv.org/outdoors) with photographs, expanded interviews with experts and ways to become an anti-weed warrior.

HOMELAND SECURITY EXPERT DISCUSSED SECURITY THREATS, PROTECTIVE MEASURES ON DIALOGUE

—Aired Thursday, September 23 at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT

—Repeated Sunday, September 26 at 5:30/4:30 p.m. MT/PT

ANSER Institute for Homeland Security Director Jay Davis appeared on DIALOGUE to discuss threats to America's security.

DIALOGUE host Marcia Franklin talked with Davis about efforts underway to protect people in the United States and elsewhere from the vast array of weapons available to terrorists and rogue nations.

Davis, a physicist, participated in two UN inspections of Iraq in 1991 and is the former director of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency of the U.S. Department of Defense. The agency, established under the Clinton administration, was given the responsibility of reducing the threat from nuclear, chemical, biological, conventional and special weapons. He is an expert in accelerator mass spectrometry and spent 31 years at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California.

The ANSER Institute for Homeland Security is part of ANSER (Analytic Services, Inc.) an independent, not-for-profit corporation begun in 1958 and designed to give the United States Air Force independent technical information. The company now provides analytic and technical support to federal agencies in the area of homeland security and aerospace systems development.

RESERVISTS PREPARE TO LEAVE FAMILIES

659th will spend year building roads in war zone

Mike Prager, Staff writer
Spokane Spokesman-Review
October 1, 2004

Army reservists training at Fairchild Air Force Base for deployment to Iraq say it's hard leaving family for a war zone, but they take heart from being able to do their duty for their country.

Some volunteered. Some were called up. One of them got married three weeks ago.

Spc. Benjamin English, 22, of Draper, Utah, left his wife, Chelsea, to join his new unit, the 659th Engineer Company, for their last few weeks of training at Fairchild. “It's hard, but she supports my decision,” English said.

The couple met in middle school and were planning to marry within the coming year, he said, but they speeded up their plans when English was transferred from his previous assignment to the 321st Engineer Battalion in the Army Reserve to the 659th. Both units are organized under the 70th Regional Support Command at Fort Lawton, Wash.

English is one of 150 reserve soldiers in the 659th who are getting ready for a yearlong deployment in Iraq. Their mission will be to build roads in the impoverished war zone. On Wednesday, they were practicing asphalt paving techniques and learning to operate their road equipment. The company is living in tents, aligned in typical Army fashion, within sight of the huge refueling air tankers at Fairchild.

They are training as if they were already in the war zone – with weapons at hand, their bodies protected by helmets and bulky vests. They expect to be shipped to Fort Lewis by Oct. 15 and then to Iraq sometime after the first of next year. In Iraq, they will work at night to minimize the triple threat of heat from the desert, asphalt and heavy protective gear.

Capt. John St. John, of Spokane, is leaving behind a 7-year-old son, Vincent, who lives with his mother. “He knows I am leaving and that’s troubling to him,” said St. John, the commander of the company. He grew up in Tekoa.

St. John said he assures his son that he will be in touch with him by e-mail, and doesn’t let his son dwell on the danger of a war. “I try not to talk about that portion of it,” St. John said. “I reassure him I’ll be back.”

St. John tells his son he is doing his duty, he said, and he must be making an impression. “This is what he wants to do when he grows up,” said St. John, who sold cell phones before taking command of the reserve company in May.

Sgt. Rob Wood, 25, of Rexburg, Idaho, left his wife and 13-month-old son to join the 659th. He said he volunteered to go to Iraq because “I’m proud to serve my country.” Wood recently graduated from college with a degree in geology.

Cpl. Bill Sparks, 31, of Salt Lake City, had been serving in the 321st Engineer Battalion.

“They asked for volunteers. I raised my hand,” said Sparks, who was working as a security officer. He has a wife and three children.

“It’s tough,” he said about leaving them behind. “We talked about it a lot.”

He said he tells his children that his training has prepared him for the mission. “Don’t lie to them. Tell them it’s going to be all right,” he said of his approach to their concerns about danger in Iraq.

Spc. Juston Ellis, 22, of Salt Lake City, was working as a counselor in a youth corrections center when he volunteered for reassignment from the 321st Engineer Battalion to the 659th. “I want to do something to help,” he said. “I have a lot of friends over there.”

He said he had been thinking about his friends and how “they were fighting to defend our country, and I was sitting home watching TV. It wasn’t right.”

Ellis said, “It’s a good cause, and I believe in it. I believe in our president as well.”