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Quote

(Editor note: On Monday, September 18, IdahoPTV played host to a regional meeting of the Society of Broadcast Engineers conference on digital television transmission technology. Thirty engineers and technicians from around the Intermountain West attended this in-service training and education session.)

"I can't thank you enough for providing the facilities for our very successful HDTV-8VSB Seminar... You guys rock..."

Rick Kemp

Chairman, Society of Broadcast Engineers, Chapter 115

Director of Engineering, Idaho Operations, Journal Broadcast Group

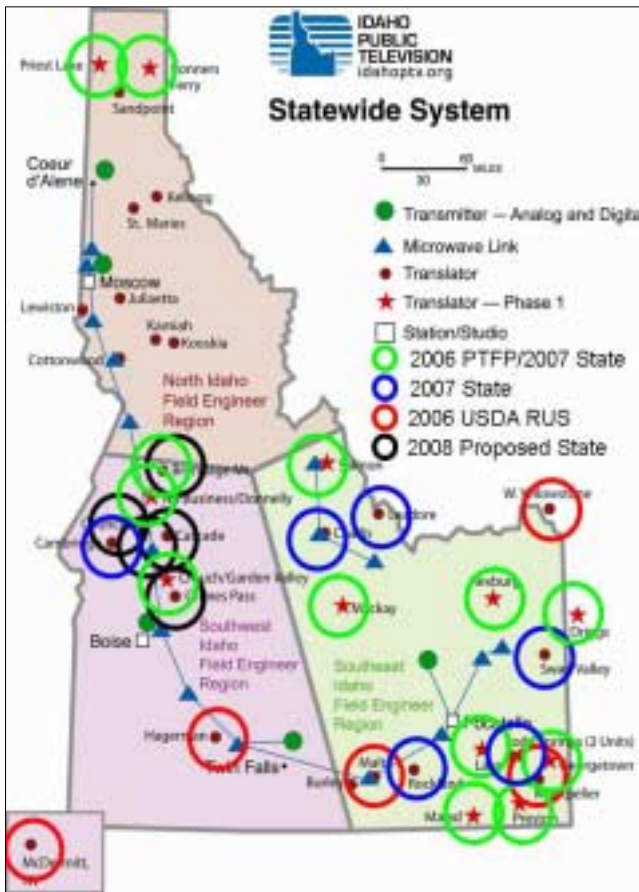


IdahoPTV Awarded \$449,430 Translator Upgrade Competitive Grant From US Department of Commerce/PTFP

On Friday, September 29, the U. S. Department of Commerce, Public Telecommunications Facilities Program (PTFP) notified IdahoPTV that we had been awarded a competitive grant totaling \$449,430 toward the digital upgrade of 12 specified television translator sites and related transmission relay components. The total project cost is \$599,241 with the balance (local match) provided through an appropriation by the 2006 Idaho Legislature.

The total amount awarded by PTFP in this grant round (FY 2006) is \$19,713,331 for 95 grants. This is the third consecutive PTFP grant that IdahoPTV has received.

I've prepared a map outlining the PTFP project sites (green circles) and additional funded and proposed sites:



PTFP Project Site Specifics:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>Purchase Date</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Elevation</u>
<u>Translator Upgrades</u>				
Bonnars Ferry	K59BW	1991	15	6188 ft
Driggs	K13QE	1985	21	9941 ft
Garden Valley	K41EO	1980	26	4913 ft
Georgetown	K57IA	1978	28	6896 ft
Lava Hot Springs	K59BV	1988	18	6200 ft
Mackay	K17CY	1980	26	7704 ft
Malad	K62BD	1984	22	5085 ft
No Business				
Peak	K41HS	1988	18	7303 ft
Preston	K27GM	1990	16	6218 ft
Priest Lake	K57CM	1990	16	3422 ft
Rexburg	K43JD	1976	30	5287 ft
<u>Feed Via Microwave</u>				
McCall/				
Brundage	KO5FG	2002	04	7802 ft
No Business				
Peak	K41HS	1988	18	7303 ft
Salmon	K57CI	2004	02	9150 ft

Because of this two year federal grant, Idaho Public Television has been directed by the Legislature to apply remaining appropriated translator funds toward upgrading additional translator sites which we've determined to be the following sites: Cambridge, Challis, Leadore, Rockland, Soda Springs and Swan Valley. These digital translator and related site upgrades are estimated to cost \$458,346. They are represented with blue circles on the above map.

These upgrades are part of a multi-year conversion plan originally compelled by congressional and F.C.C. mandates to television broadcasters nationwide to conversion to digital television technology by February 17, 2009. Under this legislation, all analog television transmitters will be required to cease operation in favor of digital transmitters. Analog translators will be allowed to continue to operate for at least two additional years, but because they utilize their "parent" transmitter's analog signal, substantial modifications must be made. IdahoPTV's plan is have all of our 37 translators digital ready by the February 17, 2009 date to minimize short term modifications in favor of permanent.

With this PTFP grant, when combined with the previously announced grants including the USDA RUS grant that was received in September 2006, IdahoPTV has 5 remaining translator sites that require upgrade funding. They include Cascade, Council, Grimes Pass/Garden Valley, McCall and Snowbank Relay. These sites are marked with black circles in the map above. Funding for these sites, totaling \$228,500 has been requested in IdahoPTV's fiscal year 2008 budget to the State of Idaho. This request was approved in August by the State Board of Education and forwarded to the Office of the Governor for review and determination in the 2007 Legislature.

In addition, IdahoPTV has requested funding from the State of Idaho for fiscal year 2008 for equipment including a studio production upgrade in Moscow, video file server upgrade in the Network Operations Center and desktop computer replacements.



The Idaho Debates: A Tasty Thirty Year Recipe

By Peter W. Morrill, General Manager, Idaho Public Television

During the fall of 1972, in a small, stuffy Boise television studio outfitted with mostly used equipment and a lot of volunteers, an Idaho tradition was born. *The Idaho Debates*. From those modest beginnings, the partnership between the League of Women Voters of Idaho and Idaho Public Television expanded to include the Idaho Press Club, whose collective efforts have influenced a generation of voters. The televised debates have also expanded to include a broadcast area that covers the entire state of Idaho.

The Idaho Debates are part of the political fabric that binds our far-flung rural state together. There are few things that connect citizens from Bonners Ferry, Moscow, Grangeville, McCall, Payette, Hagerman, Burley, Soda Springs and Salmon together, quite like *The Idaho Debates*. They allow us time to collectively ponder some serious questions, including: Who will we choose to lead our state?

For more than thirty years, people have come to trust *The Idaho Debates* for its ability to level both the political playing field and our vast Idaho geography. Everyone in our state gets the same opportunity to hear the candidates at the same time, in the same way. No editing, no behind-the-scenes format modifications, and no glitz.

The recipe for this tradition is quite simple. Take at least two candidates who have demonstrated to the three sponsoring groups that they are conducting active campaigns; mix questions from seasoned print and electronic media reporters from around the state; add a dash of the candidates quizzing each other; and finally, season the meal with civility.

When ready, serve live and uncensored to viewers statewide during primetime. For dessert, make the debates available on-line and on-demand on idahoptv.org. It's that simple.

Like any good meal, ours deserves to look its best and be served to as many people as possible. That is why you will find *The Idaho Debates* produced in high-definition format to air on both our analog and digital channels, as well as being available on the Web site.

During the last few weeks, much has been written of three candidates declining the opportunity to participate in *The Idaho Debates*. Some have opted instead to debate their opponents on other venues, such as KTVB and the Fisher Group (KLEW & KBCI). I applaud these organizations for their efforts. From personal experience, organizing debates is not for the faint of heart!

But *The Idaho Debates* will go on. Idaho Public Television is now preparing programs highlighting the races for the Attorney General (October 18), Second Congressional District (October 22), First Congressional District (October 24), Superintendent of Public Instruction (October 25), and Governor (October 29).

In addition, IdahoPTV's weekly *Dialogue* show is producing three programs that examine the two ballot initiatives and a constitutional amendment: Eminent Domain (October 19), Sales Tax for Education (October 26) and the Marriage Amendment (November 2).

So, will the candidates who have declined our invitation reexamine their decision? Only the candidates know for sure. But the one sure thing is that *The Idaho Debates* and *Dialogue* will continue our commitment to examining the candidates and the issues facing our state.

(Editors Note: Since the September GM Report was finalized, more than 35 articles and editorials have been printed in papers statewide on the issue of some candidates not debating their opponents on *The Idaho Debates*. At the bottom of this month's GM Report, I've included a cross section of those stories.)

the buzz

– Idaho Public Television's annual audit, conducted by the Legislative Auditor, began on September 27, 2006. Last year's audit produced no "findings of fiscal facts" or "recommendations."

The audit is typically finished by the beginning of the calendar year. We'll keep you posted on its progress and results.



– Journalist and novelist Jim Lehrer, Executive Editor of THE NEWSHOUR WITH JIM LEHRER, will speak at the Idaho Humanities Council Annual Dinner in Boise on Friday, November 17. For more information, please contact Kim Philipps or Ron Pisaneschi at IdahoPTV.

This event is made possible through a partnership between the IHC and Idaho Public Television.

– Tim Janis Brings Sweeping Melodies To Pocatello October 23

Tickets are on sale for the October 23 live performance by international musician and public television star Tim Janis at the L.E. and Thelma E. Stephens Performing Arts Center on the Idaho State University campus in Pocatello.



Presented by Idaho Public Television, the performance begins at 7:00 p.m. Call 208-282-3595 to obtain tickets. Prices are: adults, \$6; seniors, \$4; children, \$2; and a family of five or more (two adults and three or more children), \$15.00.

Keyboardist and composer Janis and his featured musicians will feature pieces from his recent CD release *Coastal America*. With more than one million albums sold, various national public television specials and 10 *Billboard*-charting CDs, Janis has conducted orchestras worldwide, including at New York's Lincoln Center.

Janis teamed with George Clooney to produce the public television special *TIM JANIS: COASTAL AMERICA*, which aired October 6 (Friday) on IdahoPTV at 10:00 p.m. Janis paints a musical scene with sweeping melodies while the camera captures America's coastal landmarks. Clooney narrates.

Many of his independently-produced CDs have benefited charities and advanced causes like his "Music with a Mission" projects. From South Africa to Eastern Europe and mainland China, he has brought to the stage messages as diverse as help for Africa's AIDS crisis and showcasing America's natural beauty. He has created albums to raise funds for children's charity and the American Cancer Society, working with Paul McCartney, Billy Joel and Ray Charles to produce the distinctive *Music of Hope* CD.



– As I reported in last month's GM Report, I was recently elected to a three year position on the PBS Board of Directors. I'm including a copy of the press release that IdahoPTV has recently released at the end of this report in the Public Television In The News section.



– IdahoPTV Wins Major Fundraising Award

On September 7, the 2006 PBS Development Awards were announced and IdahoPTV will be honored for our efforts in the Major Gifts category. The award will be given at the 2006 PBS Development Conference in Baltimore in early October.

I want to congratulate our outstanding development professionals who have done great things for this organization. In alphabetical order they include: Shane Chariton, Ramona Dopps, Michal Lloyd, Kacy Meadows, Kim Myers, Vicki Peterson, Kim Philipps, Phyllis Smith, Tabitha Smith, and Sandy Sutherland.

I would like to single out Deb Furey and Kim Philipps in consideration of the fact that this has been a principal focus of theirs over the last year and a half.



– In September, the Film Council of Greater Columbus notified IdahoPTV of two distinctions for the 54th Columbus International Film & Video Festival, also known as The Chris Awards:

- Educational, The Social Code—Bronze Plaque
- Arts, Rosalie Sorrels: Way Out in Idaho—Certificate of Participation

The Chris Statuettes and Bronze Plaque awards will be presented at the 54th annual awards ceremony, Saturday, November 11, 2006 at the Columbus College of Art & Design.

Signals And Technology Update



On September 14, 2006, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) granted a Construction Permit (CP) modification to begin digital operation (digital flashcut) on our No Business Peak (just south of McCall) and Rexburg sites when the equipment is acquired and installed. IdahoPTV anticipates that No Business Peak will be completed during the summer of 2007 and Rexburg this fall.

IdahoPTV Staff Updates And Transitions

— Sandy Sutherland, 20 plus year veteran IdahoPTV development professional, has accepted a position as Development Director, College of Education, at Boise State University beginning in November. Sandy's contributions and insight have added immeasurably to the quality of statewide service at Idaho Public Television. In the November GM Report, I'll share some of my thoughts and reflections on what she has meant to our organization.

— A big welcome to Kim Neilsen as the new Development Director/KISU Station Manager. Kim was raised in Rupert, attended Idaho State University, and received her B.A. in Economics and History at the University of Idaho. She has spent most of her post graduate time in the hotel industry. Kim started at IdahoPTV the end of September and has already been out in the community meeting IdahoPTV's constituency.



— Please welcome Monique Diaz as the new Associate Producer for DIALOGUE. Monique is a recent graduate of Pepperdine University, where she received a degree in Telecommunications and Political Science. While at Pepperdine, she worked on a variety of television programs as producer, reporter, host and video editor.

Monique was also an intern at KCET, the public television station in Los Angeles, on a program called "Life and Times." Her heritage is Cuban-American, and she speaks fluent Spanish.



— IdahoPTV Producer Marcia Franklin has been asked by the Silver Sage Council of the Girl Scouts, which covers southern Idaho and eastern Oregon, to accompany six Girl Scouts to Ecuador the first two weeks of December. She will be teaching reporting skills, so that they can interview participants in Rotary projects they will be visiting and make PowerPoint presentations about their return. The projects all receive their money from southern Idaho Rotary clubs.

They will be in Quito looking at some projects, in a town about 30 minutes from Quito, and then will also be flying to a lodge in the jungle east of Quito to look at a project. The projects include a school, a water treatment plant, and a sustainable farm.

The girls will be keeping a "blog" and upon their return will make presentations to groups around the state about their trip. The goal of the trip is two-fold: to increase the girls' confidence and help them discover new passions, and to help raise awareness of the Rotary projects.

Student Involvement At IdahoPTV

Originally from Frisco, CO, Koby Boley now resides in Nine Mile Falls, WA where he graduated from Lakeside High School in June 2003. Boley is currently a senior Public Relations major at Washington State University where as part of his curriculum he works with Idaho Public Television to help apply real world experience to his academic studies.



Upcoming Meetings of Idaho Public Television's Friends And Foundation Boards

Representatives from IdahoPTV's three Friends groups and Foundation will meet in Boise, on Thursday, October 19, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to continue discussing strategies for closer collaboration to benefit Idaho Public Television.



Our IdahoPTV Productions



The On Again, Off Again "Idaho Debates" What's Going on?



By Bruce Reichert, Executive Producer, Idaho Public Television

Why have some candidates chosen not to participate in the "Idaho Debates"? Are we still doing the Debates? And what does this mean for the future of the 30 year collaboration we have with the Idaho Press Club and the League of Women Voters?

These are some of the questions people are asking me, as we enter the final weeks of Idaho's campaign season. These are good questions. They deserve answers.

Politicians tend to make pragmatic decisions about debates. If they are leading in the polls, why should they give their opponent a chance to score points? It can only hurt their cause. And why shouldn't they try to get the best advantage they can in a fight?

As a fellow human being, I completely understand where they're coming from. That's why I make it a point to congratulate candidates of either party who agree to debate. It's not fun to debate. But, as a citizen of this state, I need to know what the next Governor or Congressman has in his or her head. They owe that to me if they want my vote.

In this new media marketplace, our 30 year collaboration is not the only game in town. Candidates can now shop around for the best deal. And they're doing it. That's what Jim Risch did. That's what Butch Otter did. (Controller candidate Donna Jones just decided no one wanted to watch her debate, so she's not debating, period.)

It's hard to justify Mrs. Jones' decision, at least in my head. As for Mr. Otter and Mr. Risch, I guess time will tell if the public has been served by their shopping around for the best venue. I do know that Idaho Public Television will be airing their debates, regardless of which commercial TV station they appear on.

I happen to believe that our "Idaho Debates" has served the state well. I've heard that from many candidates over the years, from all parties. We don't cut deals with individual candidates. Our process is totally transparent. Everyone gets a fair shake. If we can be faulted, it's in providing only one debate for the important state and congressional offices. Next door, Oregonians have four statewide Governor debates to watch. Now, that's more like it!

So, yes, the "Idaho Debates" will continue. We have debates scheduled on statewide television for Attorney General (Oct. 18); Second Congressional District (Oct. 22); First Congressional District (Oct. 24); and Superintendent of Public Instruction (Oct. 25).

We even have a debate for Governor scheduled on Oct. 29, because we have, at this point in time, two candidates willing to debate. That's our criteria. There have to be at least two candidates.

What does the future hold for our collaboration? Hard to say. Perhaps the Idaho media needs to get together before the next election cycle, put our collective heads together, and come up with a plan so that candidates can't pit us against each other, like they've done this year.

Perhaps we just need a lot more debates. I'm encouraged by the behavior of the two candidates for First Congressional District, Mr. Bill Sali and Mr. Larry Grant. They're out there debating, mixing it up. In this day and age, there certainly are enough topics to discuss. Hurray for both of them!



A Palouse Paradise

— Airs Thursday, October 19, at 8:00/7:00 p.m. MT/PT

“The artists and the poets describe the curves and the undulations and the shadows and the light much better than I can. I just know that when I come back to the Palouse after being away, I feel at home.” — Kenton Bird, director, School of Journalism and Mass Media, University of Idaho.

The Palouse in Idaho's Panhandle stars in a new OUTDOOR IDAHO show. The camera captures unusual cedar groves, a piece of native prairie habitat, the changing farm environment, the heritage of the Appaloosa horse, a hunt for rare earthworms, and evidence of geologic history.

The landscape is a product of a prehistoric flood that carved canyons and multiple volcanic eruptions that filled them in and left fertile dust behind. “You catch glimpses of that 14 million-year-old world at places like Palouse Falls, where the melting of a glacial ice dam in Montana sent floodwaters hurtling into present-day Washington,” says producer Bruce Reichert.

The Nez Perce bred the Appaloosa amid the tall native grasses. The tribe had the horses taken from them by the U.S. government, but has renewed the relationship in today's world. “My kids have riding lessons and that's a huge step for someone who has lost out because of the Nez Perce War,” says Aaron Miles of the Nez Perce Tribe.

Large-scale farming of the last few decades has absorbed many homesteads, leaving islands of deserted barnyards. Yet the farm economy continues to evolve. “The Palouse, I think, needs to sell itself as a nerve center of vanguard farming,” says Mary Jane Butters, organic farmer, writer and magazine editor. “We're going to make our money however we can dream it up.”

Jacie Jensen is gathering native seeds from a prairie remnant on her family's wheat farm and growing the plants for landscaping and for use in weed control. An example is a plant called prairie smoke. “It suppresses weeds. It's green almost all year round, so we think this one will be good for landscaping but also for restoration,” she says.

Photographers Alison Meyer and Jan Boles are preservationists in another way, capturing the ever-changing landscape, colors and lights. “Landscape photographers always hope that they can transmit a sense of place,” Boles says. “This picture just isn't anywhere. This definitely has an identity.”

Bird Hunting in Idaho

— Aired, Thursday, September 21, at 8:00/7:00 p.m. MT/PT
— Repeated Sunday, September 24, at 7:00 p.m. MT/PT

A dog, a gun and an early fall day in Idaho - time for a wingshooting outing as upland game bird seasons begin.

Producer Jim Peck samples several locations in this new OUTDOOR IDAHO episode. He joins friends and family members to move through the predawn quiet and the intense shades of autumn of the later hours of the day in search of dove, pheasants, chukkars and grouse.

“It’s the anticipation of fall and winter, lots of birds, the first time you’ve seen friends and family in a while. Oftentimes, kids come home and it’s cooled off a little bit. It’s always a very special start to the season,” Peck says.

The camera documents each day’s experience as the birds, the terrain, and the season change. Some constants remain a keen sense of surrounding sights, smells, sounds and atmosphere. Sometimes, a shot is successful and a dog retrieves the bounty. Sometimes it is just a beautiful day in Idaho, which is rich in good upland game bird habitat.

In fact, missing a shot is not that bad. What would be tragic is missing what is surrounding the hunter...missing out on Idaho.

“The important thing is that as long as we see what’s around us, smell the fall air, hear the silence, it will be a good hunt,” Peck says. “Maybe it is really the misses that keep us coming back.”



As mentioned above, this month Idaho Public Television in partnership with the League of Women Voters of Idaho and the Idaho Press Club plans to present seven IDAHO DEBATES featuring candidates for statewide office.

(A series of news articles and editorials on the IDAHO DEBATES is included below.)

In addition, DIALOGUE will examine the ballot measures that Idahoans will be voting on November 4. Assuming that at least two candidates for each debate meet the criteria for an active campaign, we will be holding THE IDAHO DEBATES on the following dates: All debates are available at idahoptv.org for on-demand viewing.

As of this writing, three candidates including C.L. “Butch” Otter, James E. Risch and Donna Jones have declined an invitation by the Idaho League of Women Voters, Idaho Press Club and IdahoPTV to appear on THE IDAHO DEBATES. All of the debates dates are continuing to be held open in the event that any of these candidates reconsider their decision(s).

All programs are an hour long, unless otherwise noted.

- Attorney General – Wednesday, October 18, at 7:00 p.m. MT/PT
 - Repeats on IdahoPTV HD channel at 10 p.m. MT/9 p.m. PT
 - Repeats on IdahoPTV FocusWest digital channel
 - ♦ Thursday, October 19, 7:00 a.m. MT/6:00 a.m. PT, 11:00 a.m. MT/10:00 a.m. PT, 6:00 p.m. MT/5:00 p.m. PT
- 2nd District Congress – Sunday, October 22, at 7:00 p.m. MT/PT
 - Repeats on IdahoPTV HD channel at 10:00 p.m. MT/9:00 p.m. PT
 - Repeats on IdahoPTV FocusWest digital channel
 - ♦ Monday, October 23, 7:00 a.m. MT/6:00 a.m. PT, 11:00 a.m. MT/10:00 a.m. PT, 6:00 p.m. MT/5:00 p.m. PT
- 1st District Congress – Tuesday, October 24, at 8:00/7:00 p.m. MT/PT
 - Repeats on IdahoPTV HD channel at 10:00 p.m. MT/9:00 p.m. PT
 - Repeats on IdahoPTV FocusWest digital channel
 - ♦ Wednesday, October 25, 7:00 a.m. MT/6:00 a.m. PT, 11:00 a.m. MT/10:00 a.m. PT, 6:00 p.m. MT/5:00 p.m. PT
- Supt. of Public Instruction – Wednesday, October 25, at 7:00 p.m. MT/PT
 - Repeats on IdahoPTV HD channel at 10:00 p.m. MT/9:00 p.m. PT
 - Repeats on IdahoPTV FocusWest digital channel
 - ♦ Thursday, October 26, 7:00 a.m. MT/6:00 a.m. PT, 11:00 a.m. MT/10:00 a.m. PT, 6:00 p.m. MT/5:00 p.m. PT
- Controller – Friday, October 27, at 8:00 p.m. MT/PT (30 minutes)
 - Repeats on IdahoPTV HD channel at 10:00 p.m. MT/9:00 p.m. PT
 - Repeats on IdahoPTV FocusWest digital channel
 - ♦ Saturday, October 28, 7:00 a.m. MT/6:00 a.m. PT, 11:00 a.m. MT/10:00 a.m. PT, 6:00 p.m. MT/5:00 p.m. PT
- Governor – Sunday, October 29, at 7:00 p.m. MT/PT
 - Repeats on IdahoPTV HD channel at 10:00 p.m. MT/9:00 p.m. PT
 - Repeats on IdahoPTV FocusWest digital channel
 - ♦ Monday, October 30, 7:00 a.m. MT/6:00 a.m. PT, 11:00 a.m. MT/10:00 a.m. PT, 6:00 p.m. MT/5:00 p.m. PT
- Lt. Governor – Wednesday, November 1, at 7:00 p.m. MT/PT
 - Repeats on IdahoPTV HD channel at 10:00 p.m. MT/9:00 p.m. PT
 - Repeats on IdahoPTV FocusWest digital channel
 - ♦ Thursday, November 2, 7:00 a.m. MT/6:00 a.m. PT, 11:00 a.m. MT/10:00 a.m. PT, 6:00 p.m. MT/5:00 p.m. PT

DIALOGUE programs on the ballot measures air on the following dates:

- Eminent Domain Initiative – Thursday, October 19, at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT (30 minutes)
 - Repeats on IdahoPTV HD channel at 10:00 p.m. MT/9:00 p.m. PT
 - Repeats on IdahoPTV FocusWest digital channel
 - ♦ Friday, October 20, 7:00 a.m. MT/6:00 a.m. PT, 11:00 a.m. MT/10:00 a.m. PT, 6:00 p.m. MT/5:00 p.m. PT
- Penny on the Sales Tax Initiative – Thursday, October 26, at 8:00/7:00 p.m. MT/PT
 - Repeats on IdahoPTV HD channel at 10:00 p.m. MT/9:00 p.m. PT
 - Repeats on IdahoPTV FocusWest digital channel
 - ♦ Friday, October 27, 7:00 a.m. MT/6:00 a.m. PT, 11:00 a.m. MT/10:00 a.m. PT, 6:00 p.m. MT/5:00 p.m. PT
- Marriage Amendment – Thursday, November 2, at 8:00/7:00 p.m. MT/PT
 - Repeats on IdahoPTV HD channel at 10:00 p.m. MT/9:00 p.m. PT
 - Repeats on IdahoPTV FocusWest digital channel
 - ♦ Friday, November 3, 7:00 a.m. MT/6:00 a.m. PT, 11:00 a.m. MT/10:00 a.m. PT, 6:00 p.m. MT/5:00 p.m. PT

Many of the debates and initiative program will also be carried on Boise State Radio, KISU-FM, Pocatello and Spokane Public Radio.

In addition to these debates, Idaho Public Television in collaboration with other debate organizers, will re-broadcast the following debates on our analog and statewide FocusWest digital channel:

- Governor Debate (60 minutes) (Lewiston, KBCI-TV/Lewiston Press Club):
 - October 12, 10:30 p.m. MT/PT
 - ♦ Repeat, IdahoPTV FocusWest digital channel
 - October 13, 11:00 a.m. MT/10:00 a.m. PT
- Lt. Governor Debate (90 minutes), Caldwell, KTVB
 - October 25, 10:30 p.m. MT/PT
 - ♦ Repeat, IdahoPTV FocusWest digital channel
 - October 26, noon MT/11:00 a.m. PT
- Governor Debate (90 minutes), Twin Falls, KTVB
 - October 30, 10:00 p.m. MT/PT
 - ♦ Repeat, IdahoPTV FocusWest digital channel
 - October 31, 1:00 p.m. MT/noon PT

Finally, Idaho Public Television will broadcast the following debates on our FocusWest digital channel statewide:

- 1st Congressional District (90 minutes), Caldwell, KTVB
 - October 12, noon MT/11:00 a.m. PT
- Superintendent for Public Instruction (60 minutes), Caldwell, KTVB
 - October 13, noon MT/11:00 a.m. PT



West Nile Virus and Avian Flu in Idaho

- Aired Thursday, September 28, at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT
- Repeated Sunday, October 1, at 5:30/4:30 p.m. MT/PT

DIALOGUE host Joan Cartan-Hansen sat down with Idaho State Epidemiologist Dr. Christine Hahn and State Waterfowl Manager Tom Hemker to discuss the current spread of the West Nile virus and the potential for avian flu in Idaho.

They explained what Idahoans can do to protect themselves from these two potentially deadly illnesses. They also talked about where state and local governments should focus their resources, and whether hunters are at an increased risk of contracting avian flu.

Cartan-Hansen and her guests took calls from viewers on a toll-free line during the live call-in show on Thursday, September 28.

Mosquito-borne West Nile virus invaded Idaho this summer, infecting dozens of Idahoans. Health officials warn that while West Nile virus cases in southern Idaho are declining, residents in North Idaho may be at risk next spring.

Although no outbreaks of avian flu have yet been reported, Fish and Game officials have stepped up their efforts to monitor the disease in bird populations.

View or listen to DIALOGUE episodes in a variety of formats:

— Traditional analog over-the-air broadcast airs Thursdays at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT, with repeats Sundays at 5:30/4:30 p.m. MT/PT, on channels 35-KUID/26-KCDT, 4-KAID/13-KIPT, and 10-KISU. Analog also is available through cable and satellite; consult local suppliers for channel numbers.

— High-definition over-the-air broadcast air Thursdays at 9:30/8:30 p.m. MT/PT, with repeats Sundays 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT, on channels KUID-12, KCDT-45, KAID-21, KIPT-22 and KISU-17. The high-definition broadcast also is available through some cable companies; consult local suppliers.

— Standard-definition over-the-air broadcasts air between 7:00/6:00 a.m. and 3:00/2:00 p.m. on Citizen-4 digital channel. The frequency, days and times may vary. The standard-definition broadcast also is available through some cable companies; consult local suppliers.

— Video streaming from idahoptv.org/dialogue is available in high-bandwidth or low-bandwidth format. Windows Media Player is required; a free download is available.

— Video download from idahoptv.org/dialogue; ultra-high bandwidth required.

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

— NPR News 91 audio-only airs in Southwest Idaho on Sundays, at 11:30 a.m. MT.

BYU–Idaho President Dr. Kim Clark

- Aired Thursday, September 21, at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT
- Repeated Sunday, September 24, at 5:30/4:30 p.m. MT/PT

Dr. Kim Clark, president of Brigham Young University–Idaho, sat down with DIALOGUE host Marcia Franklin.



In 2005, Dr. Clark relinquished his position as dean of the Harvard Business School to take the helm at BYU–Idaho, formerly Ricks College, in Rexburg.

President Clark talked with Franklin about his plans, and about how the school, Idaho's largest private university with more than 13,500 students, fits in with Idaho's other academic institutions. He also took calls from viewers on a toll-free line during the live call-in show on Thursday.

Dr. Clark was born in Salt Lake City, Utah. He holds Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees in economics from Harvard University, where he taught from 1978 to 2005. He served two years as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the South German Mission.



Juliette Kayyem, Terrorism and Homeland Security Expert

- Aired Thursday, September 14, at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT
- Repeated Sunday, September 17, at 5:30/4:30 p.m. MT/PT

As the U.S. commemorates the fifth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, DIALOGUE host Marcia Franklin sat down with a terrorism expert to discuss the nation's safety and preparedness in the face of continued threats of terrorism. The interview was taped in August at the 2006 Sun Valley Writers' Conference.

Franklin spoke with Juliette Kayyem about the recommendations included in her report, "Preserving Security and Democratic Freedoms on the War in Terrorism." The document proposes policy changes on national security issues such as targeted assassinations, detention, ethnic profiling and wiretapping.

Kayyem, who began her career as a trial lawyer for the U.S. Department of Justice, is now a lecturer at Harvard University, teaching courses on law and national security. From 2001 to 2003 she oversaw the terrorism and homeland security research program at Harvard. Prior to that, she served on the National Commission on Terrorism.

The Sun Valley Writers' Conference brings together well-known writers, poets, filmmakers and philosophers. Kayyem is one of the 2006 presenters that Franklin interviewed for DIALOGUE programs. December broadcasts will feature interviews with other conference participants.



Bird Migration

- Airs Tuesday, October 17, at 2:00 p.m./1:00 p.m. MT/PT

Following the seasons of the year, birds fly from one part of the world to another. Why do they do it? How do they find their way? Do you have questions about birds and their migrations? Check out the links that appear on the D4K Web page.

Watch one of our videos, or send in a question for our experts to answer on our broadcast show. This month's guest scientists are Greg Kaltenecker, Director of the Idaho Bird Observatory, and Rex Sallabanks, Coordinator for the Idaho Fish and Game Department's Nongame Bird Program and a faculty member at Boise State University.

Students can send questions through e-mail to D4K@idahoptv.org, fax them in before the show to (208) 373-7245 or call in live during the program to (800) 973-9800. You can also watch a special Web-only program on the D4K web site. Students who send in a question are eligible to win a DVD player and DVDs for their classroom. Details are available at idahoptv.org/d4k.

Viruses

- Airs Tuesday, November 21, at 2:00/1:00 p.m. MT/PT

They are too small to be seen with the naked eye, are found everywhere, and can make you really sick. Viruses are globs of chemicals that live off other organisms. How do they infect their hosts? Why do they make you sick? Do you have a question about viruses?

Check out the links that appear on the D4K Web page. Watch one of our videos, or send in a question for our experts to answer on our broadcast show. This month's guest scientists are Dr. Christine Hahn, Idaho's state epidemiologist and Dr. Jacob Hornby from Lewis and Clark State College.



On Thursday, September 28, Idaho Public Television streamed live hearings on idahoptv.org conducted by the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee at the Idaho Capitol.



Public Television In The News

IdahoPTV General Manager Peter W. Morrill Elected To Three-Year Term on National PBS Board

Idaho Public Television General Manager Peter W. Morrill in October begins a three-year term on the national Board of Directors of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).

Morrill, the first sitting general manager from Idaho to serve on the board, was chosen by the vote of the chief executive officers of the approximately 168 PBS voting member stations in the United States and territories. The PBS Board of Directors is responsible for governing and setting policy for the national television service. Morrill begins his duties immediately following the October 15 board meeting in Seattle.

“This is a very exciting time for public broadcasting and the media at large. There are so many opportunities of service through high definition and multiple digital channels, video downloading, video streaming, and additional Web-based activities,” Morrill says. “There are so many ways of engaging people, including transportable media. The technology is finally catching up to the potential of public television.”

Morrill began his public television career at WBGU-TV in Bowling Green, Ohio, in part-time positions in 1975-1978, and as a full-time producer in 1978-1979. He came to public television in Idaho in 1979 as a director/videographer. Becoming a producer/director and then executive director, Morrill co-created OUTDOOR IDAHO and IDAHO REPORTS in the early 1980s.

“When I first came to Idaho, we just had the ability to broadcast a program and maybe produce a small teacher guide. Now we have all these ways to engage our audience and serve our mission in very different and powerful ways,” Morrill says.

In 1986, Morrill was director of program production at WUFT-TV, University of Florida, Gainesville. He returned to IdahoPTV in 1989 as coordinating producer for the Idaho history series, and became assistant general manager in 1991 and general manager in 1996. He was co-chairman of the Organization of State Broadcast Executives (OSBE) in 2003-2005 and now serves on the Executive Committee of the National Educational Television Association (NETA).

“On the PBS Board, it will be energizing to take my experience at a local station in a rural area and bring that experience into the discussions and deliberations of the governing board of PBS,” Morrill says.

Idaho Public Television is Idaho's only statewide medium. IdahoPTV offers national and Idaho-produced programming from five transmitters and 37 translators. Local programming includes OUTDOOR IDAHO, DIALOGUE and IDAHO REPORTS series, plus a variety of specials about interests and issues important to the state's citizens. The system, which is a member of PBS, also provides 60 hours of children's programming each week, plus an overnight schedule with educational offerings for students, teachers and adult-learning. IdahoPTV's five digital transmitters provide high-definition television programming nightly to the state's major population centers, with standard digital programs scheduled during the day on four multi-cast channels.



Editorial: Otter's plans to run Idaho remain a mystery

Edition Date: 09-17-2006

When campaigns serve voters well, they offer a good picture of a candidate's record, character and priorities.

Idahoans still don't have a good idea of Rep. Butch Otter's agenda as the Republicans' gubernatorial candidate. Otter has taken odd, vague positions.

To compound matters, Otter is ducking one televised debate that could put some meat on the rhetoric.

You can argue that Otter's political career has built toward the Nov. 7 governor's race as a young and brash candidate with a libertarian streak, he ran for governor in 1978. Surely he has evolved and matured over 28 years; who doesn't? Yet seven weeks before the election, he hasn't explained himself to Idahoans. Consequently, it's hard to guess at his priorities.

Here's what Otter's been up to recently:

-On the Statehouse: On Sept. 9, he came out against a \$45 million plan to expand the Statehouse by building two underground wings. He supports an \$80 million renovation plan for the aging Statehouse, but prefers to find extra office space by renovating two state-owned buildings: the old Ada County Courthouse and the Borah post office. Even Otter isn't sure how much money this would save.

That's an important detail because, by trying to clip the underground wings, Otter challenges a bipartisan group of legislators that supports the plan.

Otter even undermines leading GOP lawmakers who have struggled for years for a compromise to refurbish the Statehouse for its second century and provide added space for Idahoans who attend legislative hearings.

Otter's contrarian ways are nothing new. Earlier this summer, Otter finally came out against Rep. Mike Simpson's Boulder-White Clouds wilderness bill another hard-fought consensus on a tough issue. It's one thing to take a devil's advocate position late in the process, and as one member of a 435-member House, Otter gets to get away with that. But being a good governor is about the grind-it-out grunt work that crafts consensus.

In fairness, we agree with Otter that the state should find a use for the historic Courthouse, which has stood unused since the state bought it in 1999. And we note that Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jerry Brady opposes Statehouse renovation but at least he has all along. Otter's 11th hour opposition, however, leaves us wondering whether he'll lead on tough issues, or put up roadblocks.

-On security: Otter marked the fifth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks by promising to convene a first-responders roundtable. It's unclear what would come out of such a meeting; Otter pledged to listen, then "expedite and coordinate the needed improvements so that Idaho will be a model of government responsiveness and efficiency."

Since the substance is scant < who can be anti-security? < we're troubled by style. Brady accused Otter of politicizing the 9/11 anniversary, a fair criticism. In addition, Otter was flanked Monday by about two dozen first-responders, some attending his news conference on taxpayer time.

Otter's campaign says Monday's news conference was the launch of a series of weekly campaign events. In a statement, Otter's campaign wouldn't tip its hand about what's next. Considering the laundry list of tough problems facing the state < prison crowding, high school curriculum, a growing Medicaid caseload, a tax structure relying more than ever on regressive sales taxes, a glaring shortage of community colleges < Otter should use future Mondays to stake out some real positions.

-A debatable move: We know Otter opposes one election-year tradition: a live statewide debate on Idaho Public Television. Otter backed out of a public TV debate during the May primary. This fall, he has agreed to other appearances, including an Oct. 9 Boise City Club meeting, but the lone TV debate will occur Oct. 30 and will be sponsored by KTVB. The debate will include questions from reporters and candidates and taped voter questions.

Both Otter and KTVB general manager Doug Armstrong say the candidate received no concessions on format.

The debate will air live on KTVB and run on tape delay on public TV and other network affiliates and cable. But Otter's claim that he's seeking maximum exposure < "My choice offers the potential for significantly expanding the audience," he said in a prepared statement < rings as disingenuous. What's better than a debate that airs live all across Idaho?

It's unsettling when candidates such as Otter and lieutenant governor's candidate (and current Gov.) Jim Risch shop for forums. In this case, even if Otter didn't get an overt concession, it appears he sought a friendlier venue by going to a station run by Armstrong, a well-known conservative. And this is shaping up to be the year of the non-debate; on Wednesday, Donna Jones, the GOP's candidate for state controller, turned down a public TV debate, and she said it was partly because Otter and Risch had already said no. So never let it be said that Otter can't lead in some areas.

Yet here we are, less than two months from an election, and Otter's plans to lead Idaho remain a mystery.



Our view: Candidates who have chosen to debate deserve thanks

Edition Date: 09-27-2006

State school superintendent candidates Tom Luna and Jana Jones appeared last week in front of school administrators in Parma, population 1,771.

A couple hours later, the two candidates were on the same stage in Nampa.

It's too bad this kind of engagement is the exception, not the rule, during the 2006 elections.

This year, the non-debate has become an unseemly election storyline. Yet candidates in two high-profile races are scheduled to meet at least half a dozen times before the Nov. 7 election.

Luna, a Republican, and Jones, a Democrat, will debate at least three more times this fall, including televised debates on Idaho Public Television and KTVB.

The major-party candidates in the 1st Congressional District, Republican Bill Sali and Democrat Larry Grant, have already debated three times. They're scheduled to square off Saturday morning at 6 a.m. on KIDO in Boise, 580 AM, and have agreed to appear on the Public Television and KTVB debates.

Good for the candidates. And good for the voters, who are the ultimate winners.

Luna and Jones have widely differing views on education and how to pay for public schools. Sali and Grant disagree on immigration, minimum wage, wilderness and foreign policy, among other issues. When candidates take their cases to the people, directly and repeatedly, voters can make informed decisions.

Three Republicans — gubernatorial candidate and U.S. Rep. Butch Otter, lieutenant governor candidate (and current Gov.) Jim Risch, and controller candidate Donna Jones — deserve all the criticism they've gotten for dodging or cherry-picking debates. Not all Republicans fly with their party's chicken wing, however. In the school superintendent and 1st District races, Democrats and Republicans deserve thanks for making an extra effort to appear side by side.



Jones becomes third Idaho GOP hopeful to drop public TV debate

By JOHN MILLER
Associated Press Writer
September 13, 2006

BOISE, Idaho (AP) -- Another Republican candidate has rejected a statewide debate on Idaho Public Television.

Donna Jones, running against Democrat Jackie Groves Twilegar for controller, said Wednesday she won't debate Oct. 27.

Twilegar said Jones debated poorly in 2002 on Idaho Public Television against current controller Keith Johnson, and fears a repeat performance.

Jones' move follows Jim Risch, the GOP candidate for lieutenant governor, and U.S. Rep. C.L. "Butch" Otter, R-Idaho, the Republican vying to be governor. They previously declined invitations for public TV debates.

Risch will debate Democrat Larry LaRocco and Otter will debate Democrat Jerry Brady on other TV channels including KTVB-TV in Boise. No other debates between Twilegar and Jones are planned.

Jones told The Associated Press that because Risch and Otter had opted out of the Idaho Public Television event that's also sponsored by the nonpartisan League of Women Voters and Idaho Press Club, "it didn't make a lot of sense to have a controller's debate.

"I have a full-time position until the end of the month," said Jones, who directs the Idaho Real Estate Commission. "I have one month to campaign full time. Quite frankly, I have other priorities that I need to take care of (than debating.)"

Jones said TV viewers would be little interested in seeing a debate by candidates for controller, adding the position has only limited policy-making scope. The controller sits on the Idaho Board of Land, whose members govern how the state's lands are managed, she conceded.

But "the governor chairs the Land Board," Jones said. "The governor sets the tone. The controller sits on the land board, you participate in the discussion. But, without the (governor debate on public TV), I just see no reason for the controller debate."

Twilegar, a businesswoman with a master's degree in finance and economics, said she's more qualified than Jones, a former state lawmaker with a G.E.D.

"This was Donna's election to lose, and I think she's starting off on a good foot," Twilegar said. "If you watch her 2002 debate against Keith Johnson, you'll understand why she was looking for a way to get out of the debate. She's fairly incoherent. She looks confused. She's clearly out of her league."

Twilegar, who plans to post a link to the 2002 debate on her campaign Web site, compared her financial experience with that of Johnson, who was former state comptroller and chief deputy state controller for Oklahoma.

"People see the similarities between Keith Johnson and me," she said. "They see we're both finance professionals."

Jones had originally said she would debate, but called the station Wednesday to cancel, said Marcia Franklin of Idaho Public Television.

"Clearly it's a disappointment," Franklin said. "This is an elected position. We view our role as helping educate the voters about candidates, and we see the debates as essentially part of a job interview that candidates give to voters who will be hiring them."

Democrats, meanwhile, said they were "disgusted," adding this was the lone planned debate between Twilegar and Jones.

"The arrogance of the Republicans not debating is beyond the pale," said Chuck Oxley, a Democratic spokesman in Boise. "It's unconscionable that they're pulling out of these debates and taking away the people's right to make an informed decision."

The Idaho Republican Party didn't immediately return phone calls seeking comment.

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spokesmanreview.com » [blogs](#)

Eye on Boise

Jones won't debate either

Idaho Spokesman Review

By Betsy Russell

September 13, 2006

The Associated Press reports: Another Republican candidate has rejected a statewide debate on Idaho Public Television. Donna Jones, running against Democrat Jackie Groves Twilegar for controller, said Wednesday she won't debate Oct. 27.

Twilegar said Jones debated poorly in 2002 on Idaho Public Television against current controller Keith Johnson, and fears a repeat performance. Jones' move follows Jim Risch, the GOP candidate for lieutenant governor, and U.S. Rep. C.L. "Butch" Otter, R-Idaho, the Republican vying to be governor. They previously declined invitations for public TV debates. Risch will debate Democrat Larry LaRocco and Otter will debate Democrat Jerry Brady on other TV channels including KTVB-TV in Boise. But no other debates between Twilegar and Jones are planned.

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"I have a full-time position until the end of the month," said Jones, who directs the Idaho Real Estate Commission. "I have one month to campaign full time. Quite frankly, I have other priorities that I need to take care of (than debating.)" Jones said TV viewers would be little interested in seeing a debate by candidates for controller, adding the position has only limited policy-making scope. The controller sits on the Idaho Board of Land, whose members govern how the state's lands are managed, she conceded. But "the governor chairs the Land Board," Jones said. "The governor sets the tone. The controller sits on the land board, you participate in the discussion. But, without the (governor debate on public TV), I just see no reason for the controller debate."

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GOP candidate for controller to skip debate 'You don't have to be a great debater or orator to make out the payroll,' says spokesman for Donna Jones

By Brad Hem, The Idaho Statesman
September 14, 2006

The Republican candidate for state controller, Donna Jones, dropped out of a planned television debate Wednesday, becoming the third GOP statewide candidate to do so.

“Don’t know what could be more boring than a debate between two controller candidates,” Jones campaign spokesman Chuck Malloy said.

The state controller’s only policy-making authority comes as a member of the Idaho Land Board, so there wouldn’t be much to debate, Malloy said.

Jones’ opponent, Democratic candidate Jackie Groves Twilegar, said she was disappointed but not surprised by Jones’ decision because Jones performed poorly in a 2002 debate among primary candidates for controller, coming across as inexperienced and unprofessional, Groves Twilegar said.

Jones ended up losing the primary to Keith Johnson.

“She was incoherent,” Groves Twilegar said. “She didn’t express herself well.”

But Malloy said that judging Jones’ performance in 2002 is subjective.

“You don’t have to be a great debater or orator to make out the payroll,” he said.

Groves Twilegar said she was looking forward to pointing out differences in qualifications between Jones and herself. Groves Twilegar has a master’s of business administration in finance and economics from Northwestern University and 26 years of business experience.

Jones has a GED, some attendance at Treasure Valley Community College, 12 years as a state legislator and eight years as director of the Idaho Real Estate Commission.

Gov. Jim Risch, the incumbent Republican lieutenant governor, and U.S. Rep. Butch Otter, the Republican gubernatorial candidate, also recently ducked out of the Idaho Public Television debate, which is co-sponsored by the Idaho Press Club and League of Women Voters.

“Clearly, we’re disappointed,” said debate producer Marcia Franklin. “This would have been the only debate for this position. The controller is an elected official, and (the debate) would only help educate the voters.”

Candidates for both of Idaho's congressional seats, superintendent of public instruction and attorney general remain committed to the debate, Franklin said. Democratic candidate for governor Jerry Brady and other third-party candidates also will participate.

Idaho Democratic Party spokesman Chuck Oxley said the trend of top GOP candidates ducking out of the debate is troubling.

"This is what you get with a one-party system," he said. "The Idaho Republican Party seems to have moved into a chicken coop."

There has been no organized effort to have candidates withdraw from the debate, said Republican Party executive director Jayson Ronk. Those decisions have been made by the individual campaigns, Ronk said.



A debate made in Boise

By Jim Fisher, Editorial Page Writer
Saturday, September 9, 2006

Boise Gov. Jim Risch, who is seeking his second election as lieutenant governor of Boise, has agreed to debate his opponent — in Boise.

If that doesn't sound quite right to you, it's probably because you don't live in Boise or its environs, also known as the Great State of Ada.

Risch does, and that apparently leads him to think he has no obligation to debate Democrat Larry LaRocco before an audience outside the Boise Valley. Although the office he holds is governor of Idaho and the office he seeks re-election to is lieutenant governor of Idaho, Risch says no to the traditional candidate debate broadcast throughout the state by Idaho Public Television.

He has agreed, however, to appear with LaRocco in a debate on KTVB, a commercial television station whose signal is available only in the Boise Valley.

"Unfortunately, the governor's schedule does not allow him to accept every invitation," says Jason Risch, the candidate's spokesman and son.

Besides, Jason Risch says, the format of the KTVB debate will be the "most productive to communicate the candidates' various positions."

Productive where? Why, in Boise, of course. If you don't happen to live there, you apparently don't happen to matter to the Risch campaign.

That's a strange attitude to hear from the campaign of a very short-term governor who has been actively traveling the state since he inherited the job in June from Dirk Kempthorne. The way Risch has been attending meetings, handing out checks and getting his photo taken in large and small burgs around Idaho, you would think he wanted to make clear that state government serves areas outside of the state capital.

His debate schedule says something else. It says a statewide audience isn't entitled to the same consideration as a Boise audience. It says if you want to see Risch's only debate with LaRocco of this campaign season, you had better get to Boise. It says if you don't, that's tough.



It's a one-party state, so why have any debates?

By Jim Fisher, Editorial Page Writer
September 12, 2006

Let's hear it for Jim Risch and Butch Otter. Together, they have destroyed an Idaho tradition that made the only candidate debate that is televised statewide a command performance.

By refusing to appear on the League of Women Voters-Idaho Press Club debates broadcast on Idaho Public Television, Risch and Otter have made it easier for other Republican candidates to refuse to appear with their Democratic opponents. And these days, it will be Republicans who will reject the debate invitations, because only Republicans figure they can win solely through their party affiliation.

Risch's refusal to meet Democrat Larry LaRocco in a live debate for lieutenant governor and Otter's refusal to meet Democrat Jerry Brady for the governor's job are further demonstrations of how well-entrenched one-party rule is in Idaho. Risch and Otter both know that snubbing the League-Press Club debates makes them look arrogant. But they also know enough Idahoans will vote Republican anyway that they can look however they choose.

Even dishonest. Otter's campaign manager, Debbie Field, says the reason Otter chose to appear with Brady on a commercial Boise television station over the public TV debate -- as if he had to choose only one -- was that it would provide viewers the better opportunity to see the candidates.

Let's see. Idaho Public Television is seen in nearly every community in the state, while KTVB in Boise is seen in the Boise Valley. That leaves out the entirety of northern Idaho and most of eastern Idaho, but it's still better, says Field.

"We felt like they had great coverage, that most of the state would be able to get that," Field says of KTVB. Most of the state means those regions where other stations will broadcast tape recordings of the KTVB debate.

And given that choice, why not take "most of the state" over all of the state?

Besides, Boise viewers will get to see the candidates in action, and before any viewers elsewhere will. If you don't happen to live in Boise, don't worry about being left out. All that is expected of you is to show up at the polls Nov. 7 and vote Republican. -- J.F.



Our View: Risch should debate
Voters deserve November session with
LaRocco

September 8, 2006

It's easy to figure out why Jim Risch refuses to face his Democrat opponent for lieutenant governor in a live statewide televised debate.

The Idaho governor has everything to lose and little to gain from the proposed League of Women Voters event Nov. 1.

As a Republican in a solidly Republican state and a successful officeholder during his short term as governor, Risch is a solid favorite to regain the lieutenant governor post. He relinquished the post to become governor when then-Gov. Dirk Kempthorne was approved as the U.S. Interior secretary in the spring. Some backers would argue that Risch should have run for governor against Congressman Butch Otter in the GOP primary rather than settle for second fiddle again.

He has become that popular among North Idaho Republicans.

Still, despite his decisive leadership and successful recent push for property tax reform, Risch should face Larry LaRocco and his constituents in the November debate. The debate offers the last chance for most Idahoans to hear the positions of the candidates for the state's second-highest office. Kempthorne's early departure as Idaho's top executive underscores the importance of choosing the most qualified candidate for an office that's often considered second rate. An incumbent who wants to continue to serve should tell constituents why he or she remains the best person for the job.

In his defense, Risch has agreed to an Oct. 10 debate with LaRocco that will be broadcast on KTVB in Boise and affiliate stations in other parts of the state and beyond, including, possibly, KREM-TV in Spokane and a taped version on Idaho Public Television. But this broadcast has a more controlled format than the November one. And it's much earlier. A second broadcast just before the election would force candidates to answer questions about issues that arise late in the campaign.

In declining the November invitation, Risch said through his son, Jason, that he didn't like the format. Last month, Risch told the league and Idaho Public Television that he wanted to appear separately from LaRocco, then exit the set while LaRocco took his turn answering questions. He expressed fear that LaRocco would be "disruptive" if he debated the Democrat on live television head to head.

Nothing in LaRocco's past justifies such fears. In 1994, as a U.S. representative facing re-election, he squared off with Republican challenger Helen Chenoweth-Hage in a Coeur d'Alene debate. It was informative, passionate, respectful. LaRocco was well-schooled and a decent debater.

On Wednesday, the Risch camp faxed Betsy Russell of The Spokesman-Review a 1992 article in the Lewiston Tribune in which the late Ron Rankin needled LaRocco for refusing to meet his opponent in a series of four debates. Russell and another reporter had pressed Risch about the November debate that morning. The Risch fax implied that LaRocco was being hypocritical in pushing for the live debate. But LaRocco met Republican Rachel Gilbert in a live statewide debate in 1992 and has participated in other debates in his various political races from 1982 to the present.

Risch is running for a statewide office. He has an impressive record. He should tell Idaho about it during a November debate with LaRocco.



Opinion 9/6/06 Seeking office in Idaho,
debating only in Boise

By Jim Fisher, Editorial Page Writer

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