



General Manager's Report

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Inside this issue:

- Blackfoot Elementary Students Appear In The World's Largest Concert Airing Nationally On PBS
- Brief Overview Of Legislative Activity
- Ford Foundation Grants Funds To Five PTV Stations
- The Journey Of Sacagawea Premier
- Teton Inspiration Airs On OUTDOOR IDAHO
- DIALOGUE FOR KIDS Digs For Dinosaur Facts
- DIALOGUE Tackled Issue Of Foster Care In Idaho
- DIALOGUE Guests Considered Civil Liberties, Security
- IdahoPTV Earns Two National Awards
- Coming Up, NPR's Dr. Zorba Paster To Tape DIALOGUE

BLACKFOOT ELEMENTARY STUDENTS APPEAR IN THE WORLD'S LARGEST CONCERT AIRING NATIONALLY ON PBS

—Airs Thursday, March 13 at 1:00 p.m./noon MT/PT

THE WORLD'S LARGEST CONCERT (WLC), featuring a performance by students from Ridge Crest Elementary School in Blackfoot will air on IdahoPTV, PBS, and the Armed Forces Television Network to an estimated six million participants in 175 countries on Thursday, March 13.

Students from teachers Deborah Romrell and Cheri Thompson classes at Ridge Crest Elementary School will perform the song "Picnic of the World"

dressed in costumes representing many of the 79 nations mentioned in the lyrics according to Betty Heath, Elementary Music Specialist for the Blackfoot School District. Naturally, a papier-mâché potato made by Sue Ann Overdorff makes an appearance. This segment was videotaped in November 2002 in Blackfoot and chosen in late January to air in the program.

The concert originates from Lisner Auditorium at George Washington University, Washington, DC. The 2003 theme, "Connect With Music!", has been incorporated into the concert

through interdisciplinary correlations within the music selections, showing how music relates, or "connects", to other subject areas, and also how it stands alone as an important part of a child's education. The featured choir will be the Children's Chorus of Washington, founded and directed by MENC member Joan Gregoryk. The talented American Youth Philharmonic will accompany them.

For more information check out the WLC website at: <http://www.menc.org/guides/wlc/wlcintro.html>.

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

In recent weeks, there has been a flurry of legislative-related activities regarding Idaho Public Television. Here is a brief overview:

-On Friday, January 24, Idaho Public Television presented our budget request to the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee. There were good

questions from the Committee regarding the proposal to begin converting IdahoPTV translators and base studio production equipment to digital ready. The Governor recommended this upgrade in his budget. My full presentation is available at: <http://www.idahoptv.org/about/reports.cfm>.

-On Monday, January 27, Idaho Public Television participated in the ITRMC Technology Fair on the 4th floor of the Idaho Capitol demonstrating digital television.

FORD FOUNDATION GRANTS FUNDS TO FIVE PTV STATIONS

The Ford Foundation has just awarded a second one-year, \$375,000 grant to IdahoPTV, KUED-TV/University of Utah, Wyoming Public Television, Oregon Public Broadcasting, and KNPB (Reno) to continue a partnership in developing regional public affairs programming that will transition into digital television resources for citizens.

The proposed project includes collaborative public affairs television productions, enhancements of local public affairs by each partner through the use of independent content producers, and the exploration, by each partner, of a different component of future DTV content production and services. Topics under consideration include: "Forest Management: Recreation, Fire,

Economic Development," "Endangered Species," "The Growth of Western Prison Populations," "Funding Rural Health Care," "National Security, Civil Liberties, and the Traditions of Independence and Justice in the West," "Tribal Gaming/Gambling," and "Energy." Special effort will be made to identify tribal and Latino interests and issues within these topics.

All partners will share their local expertise with each other and provide specialized services for each other. Partners will also contribute to, and use in their local DTV broadcasts, the FOCUSWEST packaged public affairs program service that airs statewide on IdahoPTV Citizen digital channel 4. The partners will use some part of the Ford Foundation funding to expand (or

re-establish) their local public affairs programs that cover state and local governments and issues.

This grant, to strengthen local and regional public affairs content so as to increase citizen participation, becomes a stepping stone to address how public DTV broadcasts can best serve rural citizens. There are unique issues in the rural West that challenge the promise of new telecommunications technologies. We hope to identify how best to realize some of this promise as we move towards DTV -- creating useful content that will generate civic dialogue and action, broadening the view both into, and out of rural areas, and empowering the voices of Latinos, tribal members, and those that live in the rural West.

THE JOURNEY OF SACAGAWEA PREMIERS

—Airs Monday, March 10 at 8:30pm MT/PT

THE JOURNEY OF SACAGAWEA tells the story of the young Lemhi Shoshoni woman who accompanied the Lewis and Clark expedition 200 years ago through territory unknown to the young United States. The account is taken from the journals of Lewis and

Clark and legends told by the Lemhi Shoshoni and Mandan/Hidatsa Native American Indian tribes.

Idaho Public Television teamed up with independent producer Lori Joyce of Idanha Films to retrace the Lewis & Clark journey through Montana, North Dakota, and of course Idaho, in search of the "real" Sacagawea. The show

features several re-creations. One, on the abduction of Sacagawea by the Hidatsa Indians, was staged and taped in early September, featuring Lemhi Shoshoni and Blackfoot Indians on horseback.

Acclaimed singer/songwriter and Native American Rita Coolidge will host the program.

TETON INSPIRATION AIRS ON OUTDOOR IDAHO

—Airs on Thursday, February 13, 8:00pm Mtn/7:00pm Pac

—Repeats on Sunday, February 16, 7:00pm Mtn/6:00pm Pac

A group of mountain climbers, raising money to fight breast cancer, heads to

the Tetons on the Idaho-Wyoming border. The women climbers have been affected by the loss of someone to cancer. By the end of this arduous journey, the group of strangers becomes a close-knit team.

Following OUTDOOR IDAHO, on Thursday, February 13, DIALOGUE will discuss breast cancer.

DIALOGUE FOR KIDS DIGS FOR DINOSAUR FACTS

Nearly 200 million years ago, dinosaurs like the Tyrannosaurus Rex roamed the Earth. DIALOGUE FOR KIDS learns about these prehistoric, larger-than-life lizards with John "Jack" Horner. Host Joan Cartan-Hansen and Horner answer student questions live Tuesday, February 18 at 2:00/1:00 p.m. MT/PT on Idaho Public Television. Students also get a sneak preview of Sue, the T-Rex at the Museum of Idaho in Idaho Falls.

Students may phone-in their questions on a toll-free line: 1-800-973-9800. Questions also may be sent by e-mail (dialogue4kids@idahoptv.org or via the DIALOGUE FOR KIDS Web site) or in advance by FAX (208) 373-7245.

Horner, a paleontologist from the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, Montana, visits Idaho for the re-opening of the Museum of Idaho after a remodeling project. The organization added 20,000 square feet to its building, making it the largest museum in Idaho.

Sue is the largest and most complete T-Rex ever found. The exhibit is scheduled to be in Idaho for three months.

Dinosaurs have left a larger impact than their footprints and fossils. Komodo dragons and most birds are relatives of the dinosaur. Birds and reptiles fall into the diapsid group, having two openings on each side of the skull.

Birds are descendants from certain dinosaurs, which are also diapsids.

Additional information and links regarding dinosaurs on the World Wide Web can be found at the DIALOGUE FOR KIDS Web site (idahoptv.org/dialogue4kids/index.html). The broadcast program, in addition to being video-streamed live on the Web, will remain available in the DIALOGUE FOR KIDS archive.

DIALOGUE FOR KIDS, produced by Idaho Public Television, airs the third Tuesday of the month throughout the school year.

DIALOGUE TACKLED ISSUE OF FOSTER CARE IN IDAHO

—Aired Thursday, February 6 at 8:00/7:00 p.m. MT/PT

—Repeated Sunday, February 9 at 5:30/4:30 p.m. MT/PT

A former foster child, a foster parent, and other panel members discussed issues relating to "Foster Care in Idaho" on a special edition of DIALOGUE.

Host Marcia Franklin spoke with Walter Reau, former foster child; Carol Shinn, foster parent; Leslie Drake, foster-care advocate; and Kathy James, Idaho Department of Health and Wel-

fare. During the live call-in show, Franklin and her guests took phone calls from viewers on a toll free line.

They also talked about the needs for Idaho's foster care system, plans to develop a "receiving home" for foster children, and the development of a foster youth alumni network.

The DIALOGUE discussion aired in conjunction with the two-part FRONTLINE "Failure To Protect" examination of child care protection in the state of Maine on January 31 and February 6.

Some 200,000 children nationwide are removed each year from their homes after allegations of neglect and abuse. Many are placed in foster care. Recent tragedies within the system have focused attention on child protection and foster care.

DIALOGUE, produced by IdahoPTV, is Idaho's only statewide public affairs call-in program. This, and other programs, are archived on the DIALOGUE website at idahoptv.org.

DIALOGUE GUESTS CONSIDERED CIVIL LIBERTIES, SECURITY

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

—Repeated Sunday, February 2 at 5:30/4:30 p.m. MT/PT

Civil liberties in times of heightened security was the topic of this episode of DIALOGUE.

Host Joan Cartan-Hansen spoke with guests about balancing the need for security and the protection of civil liberties in America's policy decisions. Guests included Pat Shea, former direc-

tor of the Bureau of Land Management and former U.S. Senate Intelligence committee staff member, and Elizabeth Brandt, professor of law, University of Idaho.

Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, the Bush Administration began broadening the government's investigative powers as part of its war on terrorism. But many civil liberties advocates question whether the administration's moves have gone too far. Supporters argue change is necessary to combat

terrorism. Some say policies initiated in the 1970s tied the hands of the FBI and the CIA and hampered abilities to uncover plans such as the 9/11 attacks.

During the live call-in show, Cartan-Hansen and her guests took phone calls from viewers on a toll free line.

This DIALOGUE program was funded by the Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation with additional funds by the Ford Foundation.

IDAHOPTV EARNS TWO NATIONAL AWARDS

Two Idaho Public Television productions have taken top honors in the New York Film Festival.

Claiming a Bronze Award in the competition are "OUTDOOR IDAHO: FRANK CHURCH WILDERNESS," which premiered on IdahoPTV last

February. IDAHO EDENS, which aired nationally on the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), was a finalist.

COMING UP, NPR'S DR. ZORBA PASTER TO TAPE DIALOGUE

At press time, Dr. Zorba Paster, host of the National Public Radio program ON

YOUR HEALTH, had agreed to be interviewed on March 1 for an upcoming

DIALOGUE program.