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General Manager's Report

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IDAHOPTV'S KIPT-DT, TWIN FALLS GOES LIVE!

It is with a great sense of pride, that in late April, Idaho Public Television turned on our fifth of five digital transmitters required by the Federal Communications Commission.

KIPT-DT, Channel 22 signed on the air for the first time at 3:48 p.m. Monday, April 28, 2003. KIPT-TV operating on Channel 13 is the parent station. This is IdahoPTV's fifth and final digital full power transmitter to go on line.

In 1997, as a result of an act of Congress, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) compelled all television broadcasters to begin installing digital transmitters on newly assigned TV channels to be completed by May 1, 2002 for commercial television license holders, and May 1, 2003 for non-commercial television license holders.

For Idaho Public Television, this has been the most pervasive and challenging technological change in our thirty-plus year history.

Since 1998, when the State Board of Education and Idaho Public Television began planning for this unprecedented technology change, there have been countless people and organizations that have contributed their support to making this project possible including:

- Governor Dirk Kempthorne
- The Idaho Legislature (1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 sessions)
- U.S. Department of Commerce, Public Telecommunications Facilities Program (PTFP)
- Corporation for Public Broadcasting's Digital Distribution Fund (DDF), administered by the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS)
- Idaho Department of Administration

In addition, this massive statewide project could not have been initiated without early support for critical planning from America's Public Television Station's DTV Business Plan Project supported by the Ford Foundation and U.S. Department of Commerce/TIIAP.

Critical in-kind and collaboration support also came from KIVI-TV/Nampa (ABC), KBCI-TV/Boise (CBS), Boise State University, University of Idaho, College of Southern Idaho, Idaho State University, and Citadel Radio.

Finally, I'd like to thank the dedicated staff of Idaho Public Television for their steely dedication to accomplishing this project. The citizens of our great state are well served by their hard work.

We now begin the second phase of the conversion to digital with the conversion of the state's network of 34 analog translators to digital ready and IdahoPTV's four studio facilities in Boise, Moscow, Pocatello, and the Idaho Statehouse. The first translator to be upgraded to digital ready, as a result of Legislative Intent, will be Sandpoint.

IDAHOPTV STATE BUDGET UPDATE

On Friday, April 11, 2003, the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee (JFAC) met to consider and vote on IdahoPTV's fiscal year 2004 state budget.

As you may recall, throughout most of fiscal year 2003, state agencies including IdahoPTV have been operating under the following general conditions:

- 3.5% holdback imposed by Governor Kempthorne last September (this amounts to \$67,500).
- Hiring freeze on all positions. (The Division of Financial Management (DFM) has allowed exemptions in critical non-state funded, fund raising and technical positions.)

On a vote of 20-0, JFAC passed our FY 2004 budget. The following is an initial assessment of their action:

- It approved several base adjustments amounting to \$84,600.
 - ◊ Power costs
 - ◊ Attorney General Office fees
 - ◊ Risk Management Office fees
 - ◊ Controller Office fees
 - ◊ Treasurer Office fee
 - ◊ Building lease fee
 - ◊ Department of Lands fee
- It funded health benefit cost increases for those employees paid with state funds.
- 3.5% permanent reduction in our base budget.
 - ◊ This amounts to \$67,500
 - * The currently unfilled DTV Planner and Traffic positions have been eliminated because of this reduction.
- It declined funding inflation adjustment of \$11,600.
- It declined funding Change in Employee Compensation (CEC).
- All replacement capital requests were declined.
 - ◊ IdahoPTV requested \$959,900 for aged translator and studio equipment replacement
 - * Sandpoint, Lewiston, McCall, Burley, Rexburg and Soda Springs translators
 - * Phase 1 (of 3) studio equipment replacement
 - ◊ Governor Kempthorne recommended \$400,000
- It passed the following Legislative Intent Language.
 - ◊ "Any unspent moneys appropriated for digital broadcasting upgrades during the period July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2003, shall be encumbered for the purposes of upgrading broadcast equipment and translators to digital broadcast standards, during the period July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2004. Highest priority shall be given to upgrading the broadcast translator station at Sandpoint, Idaho. This appropriation acknowledges that additional grant funds may become available to support digital broadcasting and equipment upgrades. It is legislative intent that Idaho Public Television seek such funds to supplement General Fund moneys encumbered for digital broadcasting and equipment upgrades by this act."

On April 21, 2003, the Idaho House of Representatives passed our appropriations bill (HB 422) on a vote of 62-8. It then proceeded to the Senate, and was passed on a vote of 31-0.

It now proceeds to the Governor's desk where it is expected to be signed.

THREE REGIONAL EMMY NOMINATIONS GO TO IDAHOPTV

Two Idaho Public Television OUTDOOR IDAHO shows are competing in three different categories for Northwest Regional Emmy Awards to be announced June 21 in Seattle.

The nominations and categories of competition are:

- “The Frank Church Wilderness” in Informational: Special or Series. The 30-minute program traces the history of the 2.4 million-acre expanse where today trackers assist biologists, University of Idaho students conduct biological studies and llamas help travelers reach the backcountry.
- Joan Cartan-Hansen for “The Frank Church Wilderness” in Writing.
- “Desert Therapy” in Informational: Children & Youth Program. This hour-long special, produced by Marcia Franklin, follows five teenagers through a therapeutic wilderness camp near Gooding where they learn to survive physically and emotionally.

The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Northwest Regional Chapter sponsors the awards for local and regional program material by television stations in Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Alaska.

OUTDOOR IDAHO airs on IdahoPTV Thursdays at 8:00/7:00 p.m. MT/PT and repeats Sundays at 7:00/6:00 p.m. MT/PT.

IDAHOPTV & NEWSHOUR EXPLORE FAITH & FOREIGN AFFAIRS

This week, we are completing a series of discussion “salons” with people of different religious backgrounds. The discussions take place in Lewiston, Caldwell and Idaho Falls and cover a range of international issues. They are part of a project called “Faith and Foreign Affairs,” funded by “The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer.”

Idaho Public Television was one of 15 stations that received grants from the NewsHour to look at citizens’ views on America’s role in the world. Our project is examining religious responses, since those are not often featured in the mainstream media, and offering people who might not normally meet each other a chance to talk with one another about important issues.

Other parts of the project include a documentary piece on missionaries, a web site and an hour-long statewide call-in program with Rev. Bob Edgar of the National Council of Churches and Mark Tooley of the Institute on Religion and Democracy. That program will air on Thursday, May 22nd from 8-9 p.m. MT/7-8 p.m. PT.

GOVERNOR KEMPTHORNE DISCUSSES LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

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

—Repeated Sunday, May 11 at 5:30/4:30 p.m. MT/PT

Governor Dirk Kempthorne appeared live on DIALOGUE to discuss the results of the recent legislative session and the state’s money situation in the months ahead.

The governor joined DIALOGUE host Joan Cartan-Hansen to discuss his approach to the Legislature and the tough stands he took, which brought him both praise and scorn. He also discussed whether the sales tax and cigarette tax increases are expected to solve the state’s fiscal crisis and his view of the Idaho economy.

During the live call-in show on Thursday at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT, Joan Cartan-Hansen and Governor Kempthorne took phone calls from viewers on a toll free line.

RETIRING BSU PRESIDENT APPEARED DIALOGUE

—Aired Thursday, May 1 at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT

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

The retiring president of Boise State University appeared on DIALOGUE this week to talk about his more than 10 years of heading up the state's largest university.

DIALOGUE host Joan Cartan-Hansen was joined by Dr. Charles Ruch, who is stepping down as president at the end of this academic term.

Dr. Ruch discussed the accomplishments his administration made during the decade and talks about the future of higher education in Idaho and around the world. In July, Dr. Ruch picks up the reins as president of South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City, SD, a job he accepted after announcing his retirement from BSU.

During the live call-in show on Thursday at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT, Joan Cartan-Hansen and Dr. Ruch took phone calls from viewers on a toll free line.

DIALOGUE FOR KIDS SPIES ON SPIES

DIALOGUE FOR KIDS learns about spy technology for the final program this school year. INEEL scientists Kevin Young and Mike Occhionero talk about spy gizmos and gadgets with host Joan Cartan-Hansen and answer student questions on air. The live show airs Tuesday, May 20 at 2:00/1:00 p.m. MT/PT on Idaho Public Television.

Cartan-Hansen and her guests take calls from students statewide on a toll-free line: 1-800-973-9800. Questions also may be sent by e-mail ([dialogue4kids@idahoptv.org](mailto:dialogue4kidsidahoptv.org) or via the DIALOGUE FOR KIDS Web site) or in advance by FAX (208-373-7245).

Spying and technology have always gone together. Colonial spies for George Washington sent secret notes in invisible ink made from lemon juice. Today's spies use high tech robots and cameras that can go where humans cannot.

Additional information and links regarding spy technology 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 audio- and video-streamed live on the Web, also will remain available in the DIALOGUE FOR KIDS archive on the Web site.

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

2003-2004 DIALOGUE FOR KIDS SCHEDULE

September 16	Skin
October 21	Space
November 18	Mammoths
December 16	Archaeology
January 20	Alternative Energy
February 17	Earthquakes
March 16	Habitat-Niche
April 20	Birds of Prey
May 18	Water

DIALOGUE INTERVIEWED ZORBA PASTER

- Aired Thursday, April 24 at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT
- Repeated Sunday, April 27 at 5:30/4:30 p.m. MT/PT

Physician, author and public radio host Dr. Zorba Paster appeared on DIALOGUE.

Paster and host Joan Cartan-Hansen discussed his book, *The Longevity Code: Your Personal Prescription for a Longer, Sweeter Life*.

He also talked about ways to improve communication with physicians, recent nutritional research and his weekly program heard on public radio stations nationwide.

Because this was a pre-recorded interview, there were no calls from viewers.

DIALOGUE is funded by the Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation with additional funds by the Ford Foundation.

STATEHOUSE JOURNALISTS APPEARED ON DIALOGUE

- Aired Thursday, April 17 at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT
- Repeated Sunday, April 20 at 5:30/4:30 p.m. MT/PT

Three Statehouse journalists appeared on DIALOGUE and reported on nearly four months with the Idaho Legislature, as the session became the longest in history.

DIALOGUE host Joan Cartan-Hansen was joined by Greg Hahn, *The Idaho Statesman*, Boise; Corey Taule, *Idaho Falls Post Register*; and Adam Wilson, *The Lewiston Tribune*.

The trio looked at what the Legislature had accomplished and provided a look at the dynamics of the session.

During the live call-in show on Thursday at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT, Cartan-Hansen and her guests took phone calls from viewers on a toll free line.

MORE HONORS GIVEN TO IDAHOPTV

Here are the results of the Worldfest competition at the Houston International Film and Video Festival:

FocusWest: LOS AMERICANOS, Silver, Public Affairs Program

FocusWest: DRAINING THE WEST, Gold, Legal Issues

Outdoor Idaho: "The Frank Church Wilderness," Bronze, Nature and Wildlife

Outdoor Idaho: "Desert Therapy," Silver, Family Matters, Worldfest

Idaho Rhapsody, Special Jury Award, Travel and Tourism, Worldfest

In addition, Idaho Public Television employees have won awards in the 2003 Society of Professional Journalists Pacific Northwest Excellence in Journalism Competition: Alan Austin, John Crancer, Joan Cartan-Hansen, Jennifer Eisenhart, Tom Hadzor, Pat Metzler, Ricardo Ochoa, Jim Peck, and Bruce Reichert. The places and categories will be announced on May 17 through release on *The Associated Press* and banquets in Bellevue, Washington and Portland, Oregon.

2003 IDAHO PRESS CLUB ANNOUNCES AWARDS

Outdoor Idaho

- First Place, Documentary, "Desert Therapy"
- Second Place, Documentary, "Gold Rush Days & Ghost Towns"
- Third Place, Documentary, "Our Dogs"
- First Place, Public Affairs Field, "Fish & Game in the Crosshairs"
- First Place, Outdoor Report, "Frank Church Wilderness"
- Second Place, Outdoor Report, "Idaho, An Angler's Paradise"
- Third Place, Outdoor Report, "Horse Women: Copper Basin Trip"
- Second Place, Television Writing, Joan Cartan-Hansen, "Frank Church Wilderness"
- Third Place, Television Writing, Jim Peck, "Horse Women: Jockey"

Dialogue For Kids

- Second Place, Public Affairs Studio, "The Brain"

Dialogue

- Third Place, Public Affairs Studio, "Indian Gaming"

FocusWest: Los Americanos

- First Place, Public Affairs Studio

Website General Excellence: Broadcast

- Second Place

Website Special Purpose

- Second Place, "FocusWest"
- Third Place, "The Idaho Debates"

Arts In Idaho

- First Place, "Idaho Rhapsody"

IDAHOPTV INTERN AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP

Zachary Schuster, Junior, Boise State University and IdahoPTV Intern has been awarded the Idaho State Broadcasting Association's Wayne Cornils Scholarship.