



General Manager's Report

Idahoptv.org

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QUOTE

"Public Television remains a beacon of hope and light in a world turned upside down, where might has become right. Continue to challenge and confront us with the truth."

Daveen Green, viewer

the buzz

For more Buzz, checkout idahoptv.org

-The United States House of Representatives continues to deliberate whether to set a "hard" date for the cessation of analog television in America. They are currently discussing the date of April 1, 2009.

Between 1999 and 2003, IdahoPTV converted its television transmitters and broadcast network operations center to digital. Beginning in 2004, the Federal Communications Commission began requiring television set manufacturers to include a digital receiver in new television sets. Beginning in 2006, all new televisions should be equipped with this new technology.

If this proposal to cease analog television in 2009 is enacted this would have a significant impact on viewers across Idaho for several reasons:

- Few viewers currently have television sets with digital receivers.
- Most translator served areas have not been upgraded to allow for digital signal service. Only 5 of IdahoPTV's 37 television translators (repeaters) have been digitally upgraded. IdahoPTV has unsuccessfully requested funds from the State of Idaho for the previous two years to begin the project and we were unsuccessful with a 2005 grant application from the federal government to comply with this federal mandate.
- About 40% of the viewing audience receives television from our free over-the-air service and would be required to subscribe to fee based services such as cable television (if available) or home satellite systems such as DishTV or DirecTV.

We'll keep you posted on this issue!

-On October 25, 2005, Idaho Public Television, in partnership with Legislative Services, webcast the day-long Idaho Legislature sub-committee public hearings on state employee compensations.

-On Sunday, October 16, at 8am, NPR 91.5 FM, a station of the Boise State Radio Network, began a weekly audio rebroadcast of IdahoPTV's DIALOGUE. This unique new partnership between Idaho Public Television and Boise State Radio also plans to bring IdahoPTV's IDAHO REPORTS beginning in January. The two organizations have previously worked together on the rebroadcast of IdahoPTV's IDAHO DEBATES, a collaboration with the Idaho Press Club and the League of Women Voters.

-Do you have a portable MP3 device like an iPod or Rio? Do you have a computer and want to listen to DIALOGUE and DIALOGUE FOR KIDS? Well, both programs are now available in MP3 form at idahoPTV.org and can be downloaded and listened to at your convenience. Beginning in November, you can also subscribe to an audio podcast of DIALOGUE and/or DIALOGUE FOR KIDS. This new service complements the existing video streaming files that are available for both DIALOGUE, DIALOGUE FOR KIDS, IDAHO REPORTS, IDAHO DEBATES, LIVE DEBATE IN THE IDAHO HOUSE, SENATE and JFAC, in addition to periodic IDAHO SUPREME COURT HEARINGS and LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE HEARINGS. Video streaming is now available in both broadband and dial-up versions. Look for some additional exciting announcements in the next two months of new digital services from Idaho Public Television.

IDAHOPTV RECOGNIZED

-Peter Morrill's two year tenure as Co-Chair of the Organization for State Broadcast Executives, concluded on October 18. OSBE represents America's 26 statewide public television broadcasters on national issues. At the bi-annual meeting held at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, a resolution was passed by the membership and it reads as follows:

Motion made by Maynard Orme, General Manager of Oregon Public Broadcasting; accepted by acclamation Tuesday, October 18, 2005:

WHEREAS, for the past two years Peter Morrill has served as co-chair of the Organization of State Broadcasting Executives, a term of service marked by productive meetings and collegial activities; and,

WHEREAS, Peter has devoted time away from his family and his network to ably represent member interests in many venues, most notably as a founding member of the Affinity Group Coalition; and,

WHEREAS, during his tenure Peter has listened, understood ...and perhaps most important ...appreciated the needs of our members, always offering support in a manner that is direct and never self-serving; and,

WHEREAS, during this period Peter Morrill has continued to serve the citizens of Idaho and to strengthen Idaho Public Television's recognized role as a benchmark for editorial integrity; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that as Peter completes his two-year term we, the members of OSBE, do hereby express our appreciation for Peter Morrill's stewardship, our respect for his integrity, and our commitment to continued friendship.

-Ron Pisaneschi has been elected President of the Public Television Programmers Association (PTPA). His term is for one year. This is the first time that an Idahoan has chaired the association that represents public television programmers.

IDAHOPTV STAFF UPDATES AND TRANSITIONS

On October 24, 2005, retired IdahoPTV Master Control Operator Roy Martin passed away at home after a long illness. Roy worked for us for fifteen years and retired in 1996.

IDAHOPTV SIGNALS UPDATE

On October 25 and 26, the representatives from the Federal Communications Commission made an unannounced inspection of radio and television facilities at Deer Point, above the city of Boise. Idaho Public Television's facilities passed all federal inspections during this visit.

IDAHOPTV REACHES OUT

Peter Morrill will speak to the Les Bois Kiwanis Club in Boise on December 6.

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IDAHO PUBLIC TELEVISION'S FRIENDS BOARDS

-Friends of Idaho Public Television: KAID/KIPT, Wednesday, November 16

-Friends of Idaho Public Television: KISU, Wednesday, November 16

-Friends of Idaho Public Television: KUID/KCDT, Wednesday, November 16

OUTDOOR IDAHO LOOKS AT SILVER VALLEY

-Aired Thursday, October 20 at 8:00/7:00 p.m. MT/PT

-Repeated Sunday, October 23 at 7:00 p.m. MT/PT

Idaho's Silver Valley seeks to welcome a new day and a new economy after nearly 25 years of dealing with mine closures and being named a Superfund site. A new OUTDOOR IDAHO which aired on Idaho Public Television examined the area and its progress.

"Having the town you live in called poisoned ground is a stigma no one wants," says host and producer Bruce Reichert. "So, last summer, when the nation's scientists issued their long awaited report on the cleanup efforts, we figured it was a good time to re-visit Idaho's largest Superfund site, to find out for ourselves how things were progressing."

"It's hard to find a more fascinating region of Idaho than the Silver Valley," Reichert says. "Mining companies like Bunker Hill catapulted Idaho onto the world stage early in our state's history and kept us there until 1981, when the mines closed and the region became one of the nation's largest superfund sites. Silver mining on a grand scale took the region on a wild and profitable roller coaster ride that came to a screeching halt in the 1980s."

Some signs that times may be changing include condominium sales in the Kellogg area, golf course plans and ideas for snow sports development. Meanwhile, a bicycle trail on an abandoned railroad route is drawing riders and the world's longest gondola takes sightseers to the top of Silver Mountain

"I'm ready for some good times again," says Jan Olsen, who once worked for the mines in the Wallace-Kellogg area and now works in the environmental clean-up operations. "I'm ready to see new money and some new jobs. It's time and the hillsides are being reclaimed. The 're-veg up' efforts are working: nature is helping."

Environmental and health agency personnel in Idaho continually monitor waters that still secrete metal wastes. Clean up continues on public and private lands but significant progress has been made on residential properties, resulting in lower lead counts among children.

"As we started to see more children end up on clean yards, the blood levels began dropping, and they have been dropping ever since," says Jerry Cobb, Panhandle Health District environmental health supervisor.

Other places remain clean-up conundrums. There are two million gallons of acid water flowing out of the closed Bunker Hill Mine on a daily basis that are neutralized and cleaned of heavy metals in a central treatment plant. Heavy metals from the mines lie deep within Lake Coeur d'Alene, including an estimated \$300 million worth of silver. Adjacent landowners worry the soils adjacent to the bicycle trail is contaminated by dust from open ore cars when the route was a railway.

Not everyone sees clean-up challenges everywhere.

"I think a lot of this has been way, way overblown and hopefully it will get past us one of these days so we can get on with our lives here without Superfund signs," says Dale Lavigne, a Silver Valley pharmacist.

And, Mayor Ron Garitone of Wallace is focusing on the future. "Ten years from now Wallace is going to be the jewel of the state of Idaho. I can almost promise you," he says.

UPCOMING DIALOGUES

November 3: TBA

November 10: 116th National Guard Coming Home

November 17: "Saving Stuff"

November 24: Writer Jane Smiley

December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Sun Valley Writers' Conference Interviews

January 5: Legislative Preview

DIALOGUE LOOKS AT PRESERVING ARTIFACTS

–Airs Thursday, November 17, at 8:30/7:30 pm MT/PT

–Repeats Sunday, November 20, at 5:30/4:30 MT/PT

Museums know how to preserve important artifacts, but how do you protect family treasures. This week on Dialogue, the authors of "Saving Stuff" answer viewers' questions about the best way to care for everything from valuable family heirlooms to children's artwork. Host Joan Cartan-Hansen is joined by Don Williams, senior conservator of the Smithsonian Institutions and his co-author Louisa Jagar. Viewers are encouraged to call in with questions about how to save their favorite stuff at our toll free number.

DIALOGUE "METH IN IDAHO" EXAMINES METHAMPHETAMINE SITUATION IN IDAHO

–Aired Thursday, October 27 at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT

–Repeated Sunday, October 30 at 5:30/4:30 p.m. MT/PT

Guests on DIALOGUE examined the methamphetamine situation in Idaho, which is becoming a growing concern for state law enforcement officials and treatment providers in the Gem State.

DIALOGUE host Marcia Franklin was joined by: Shelly Odlum, a former meth user; Idaho State police Lieutenant Dan Thornton, chief, Investigative Division, Region 4; and Joe Beckett, clinical director, Powder Basin Associates, which operates five drug and alcohol treatment centers in North Idaho.

According to prison officials, methamphetamine is the single biggest factor in prison population growth in Idaho. This past summer, more than half of released inmates said meth was their primary cause of incarceration. After marijuana, it is the second most common drug in possession of arrestees, according to law enforcement officials.

DIALOGUE guest Odlum personally experienced the physical dangers of the substance when a meth lab exploded in her home, leaving her severely injured and in need of skin grafts.

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

Methamphetamine was introduced into the medical field in 1944 to treat obesity. In the 1960s, the practice of injecting the drug as a stimulant became popular. During the 1990s, a form of methamphetamine called "ice" or "crystal meth" began to be used in the United States. "Crystal meth" is a highly addictive powdered substance that can look like glass and can be taken orally, snorted, smoked or injected. Addicts are known to avoid sleep for days while binging, and commit crimes or build meth labs to feed their habit. The drug can cause paranoia and then severe depression when it wears off.

DIALOGUE, produced by IdahoPTV, is Idaho's only weekly statewide public affairs program. The program is funded by the Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation. Individual DIALOGUE programs are archived on the IdahoPTV Web site at idahoptv.org/dialogue and may be Web streamed for later viewing.

DIALOGUE LOOKS U.S. LAND USE POLICIES

–Aired Thursday, October 13, at 8:30/7:30 pm MT/PT
–Repeated Sunday, October 16, at 5:30/4:30 MT/PT

On this episode, DIALOGUE discussed the history of the development of land use policies in the United States and consequences from natural disasters such as wildfire. Author and environmental reporter Rocky Barker and U.S. Park Service Fire Director Mike Wallace, joined host Joan Cartan-Hansen to provide their perspectives on policies related to land use and answer viewer questions.

The 1988 fires in Yellowstone National Park changed the way Americans looked at fire suppression. America's fire policies first developed as Yellowstone itself was created. The lessons learned there changed how the nation deals with natural disasters. But the results of human efforts to control or respond to fires on the scale of those in Yellowstone or hurricanes in the Gulf have forced Americans to wonder how far humans can go to counter the impact of nature.

Barker and Wallace addressed these and other issues on DIALOGUE.

DIALOGUE FOR KIDS PROBES FOR PLANET FACTS

–Airs Thursday, November 15, at 2:00/1:00 pm MT/PT
–Airs live and archived at idahoptv.org

Ever wondered what lies beyond the moon? With special probes, scientists are finding out more about the moons of Saturn, the surface of Mars and even learning if there was ever life on other planets in our solar system. Some scientists even think there may be a 10th planet beyond Pluto. This month's guest experts are Leslie Baker, a planetary research scientist at the University of Idaho and Jill Scott, an INL chemist studying Mars rocks.

Students can e-mail their questions to dialogue4kids@idahoptv.org or they can FAX them in before the show to (208) 373-7245 or call in live during the program to (800) 973-9800.

DIALOGUE FOR KIDS LOOKS AT STATES OF MATTER

–Aired Thursday, October 18, at 2:00/1:00 pm MT/PT
–Aired live and archived at idahoptv.org

Matter is all around you. It can be as small as the tiniest cell in your skin or as large as the whole galaxy! Anything that takes up space and has weight is called matter. Matter can be found in different states, not states like the state of Idaho, but states like solid, liquid and gas. Scientists study matter to find out more about the universe. This episode's guest expert is Idaho State University Professor Steve Shropshire.