

IDAHO PUBLIC TELEVISION GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

By PETER W. MORRILL
IdahoPTV
208-373-7220
idptv@idahoptv.org



IDAHO
PUBLIC
TELEVISION
idahoptv.org



KAID BOISE • KCDT COEUR D'ALENE • KIPT TWIN FALLS • KISU POCATELLO • KUID MOSCOW

2D Barcode



The latest Buzz
on Idahoptv.org



Past GM Reports

Inside this issue

- Quotes, *Page 1*
- Eye on Boise: Statesman editor takes helm of 'Idaho Reports', *Page 1*
- The Buzz, *Page 2*
- IdahoPTV Mailbag, *Page 7*
- Our IdahoPTV Productions, *Page 8*
- Dialogue, *Page 9*
- D4K, *Page 10*
- Public Television in the News, *Page 11*

Quotes



Thankyou!... for the HD News Hour! (even from directv)... we missed it after moving from San Jose.
Signed Fred Buckley, August 9, 2011
(Editor's Note: IdahoPTV upgraded our main Idaho channel to HD on August 9.)



"...It is a letter from an exceptionally concerned citizen to a communist faction to watch ever single p and preverbal q because me and numerous people like me who love this country and detest anything to do with socialist anything are watching you like a hawk. And as before GOD BLESS."

Signed Bob Bushell, September 13, 2011



"Now that 'Moyers & Company' will be available soon, I would encourage Idaho Public TV to put it on their schedule. I missed Bill Moyers when he left TV and am VERY excited about his return. He always does a quality job...and goodness knows many of us crave quality TV. My husband and I have been supporters of IPTV for MANY years. We thank you for your consideration of our request."
Signed Jennette Bowman, August 25, 2011

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

September 11, 2011 in Idaho

Eye on Boise: Statesman editor takes helm of 'Idaho Reports'

Betsy Z. Russell The Spokesman-Review



BOISE – Idaho Public Television announced that Greg Hahn has been hired as the new producer and host of "Idaho Reports," the weekly program that reports on happenings in the state Legislature during its winter sessions.

Hahn, who most recently was news editor for the Idaho Statesman newspaper in Boise, filled in as moderator on the program last year after former host Thanh Tan left for a job with the Texas Tribune.

IPTV conducted a national search for Tan's replacement, and Hahn was selected.

He covered the Legislature for about a decade, first for the Twin Falls Times-News and then for the Statesman; he's also reported on stories from Burley to Baghdad to the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. Hahn holds a degree in anthropology and film from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a master's degree in journalism from New York University. Outside the legislative-session program, Hahn will work on documentaries and other stories.

the buzz

—In September, the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation published the “Idaho Education Resource: A Guide for Idahoans en Route to Success.” On page 17, they featured IdahoPTV’s new Scout online media resource portal.

<http://idahoptv.pbslearningmedia.org/>

Here is a link and text to the full article:

<http://www.myvirtualpaper.com/doc/JKAF/idaho-education-resource-guide---fall-2011---the-the-ja-and-kathryn-albertson-foundation/2011090501#0>



Available now!

Scout

Beginning this fall, teachers and students in Idaho will have immediate access to their lessons and homework from more than 14,000 research-based instructional resources – including videos, interactive, images, audio files, mobile apps, lesson plans and worksheets through SCOUT LearningMedia.

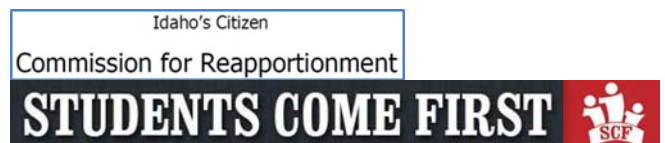
To help engage students and foster classroom innovation, Idaho Public Television and the Idaho Commission for Libraries has launched SCOUT, a localized version of PBS LearningMedia, created in collaboration with PBS and WGBH, and their producing partners WNET and KET to foster learning and engagement in and out of the classroom.

“It takes commitment from the entire nation to help build the classroom of tomorrow, and our member stations stand at the ready to partner in every community,” said Paula Kerger, PBS president and CEO. “Digital media content-so pervasive in the lives of children-has the potential to dramatically change the way students learn and participate in a global society.”

Over 60% of K-12 teachers frequently use digital media in the classroom and are increasing their reliance on free resources due to school budget cuts.

Funding for this program is provided by the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP).

Idaho Legislature Live



—Through the summer, *Idaho Legislature Live* has been busy covering the statewide meetings of several committees including the Idaho Citizen Commission for Reapportionment and Students Come First Committee on Technology. We have archived these proceedings at: <http://idahoptv.org/leglive/archive.cfm#redistrict>.

In early September, the Idaho Citizen's Commission for Reapportionment failed to develop and adopt a plan. The Secretary of State has compelled the creation of a new Idaho Citizen's Commission for Reapportionment which is expected to begin its work on September 28. This panel will also have ninety days to complete its work. Idaho Legislature Live will cover these proceedings live and will archive the proceedings also at: <http://idahoptv.org/leglive/archive.cfm#redistrict>.

I'd like to again thank the Idaho State Broadcasters Association for their major financial support of this activity. Additional support comes from the Idaho Association of Counties, the Association of Cities, and your contributions to the Idaho Public Television Endowment.

—On Wednesday, August 24, IdahoPTV submitted our fiscal year 2013 budget request to the State Board of Education. Fiscal year 2013 begins July 1, 2012. The operating budget request represents maintenance of current operations totaling \$1.5 million from state general funds. In addition, IdahoPTV is requesting one-time funding for essential equipment replacement totaling \$1.5 million. Due to the poor economy, our state has not appropriated such funding for the past three years, and thus, we have continued to defer the replacement of several critical systems. In mid-August, the State Board of Education also approved IdahoPTV's single Line Item request for ongoing, partial funding for Idaho Legislature Live totaling \$116,500. Our budget request proceeded to the Office of the Governor, Division of Financial Management on September 1, who will review, compile and then present to the Legislature and the public during the Governor's State of the State and Budget Address in early January 2012.



—As previously reported, this summer has seen much activity surrounding the installation of an emergency backup power system for the Network Operations Center (NOC) in Boise. All the broadcast and internet programming and telecommunication control signals that we provide to the state originate here. I'm pleased to let you know the project was completed in the early hours of Wednesday, September 7. The sophisticated system provides an extremely "smooth" power stream to the NOC through the combined technologies of a large uninterruptible power supply (UPS), an associated flywheel generator, and 185KW diesel generator all monitored by a computer management system. These new devices will provide at least 72 hours of uninterrupted power.

It got its first real-world workout on Monday, September 12 when the downtown Boise area experienced a series of power outages. I'm pleased to report IdahoPTV's Network Operations Center continued without interruption. Wahoo! Funding for this project was made possible through a competitive grant of \$300,000 from the now defunded U.S. Department of Commerce's Public Telecommunications Facilities Program (PTFP).

Idaho Public Television

2011 Fall Preview

Barber Park
Education & Event Center

the kitchen

EDWARDS
GREENHOUSE & FLORIST
EST. 1936
A GROWING FAMILY FOR 75 YEARS



—On Wednesday, September 14, IdahoPTV held our 2011 Sponsor Luncheon at the Barber Park Education and Event Center in Boise. During this annual gathering, we previewed upcoming segments from national programs including Ken Burns' Prohibition and the PBS Fall Arts Festival, and two new Outdoor Idaho programs entitled "The People's Land" and "Idaho Geology." In addition, the event enjoyed a rousing performance by musician Tom Thompkins.

I'd like to thank the 120 people who attended and also The Kitchen and Edward's Greenhouse and Florist. It is through this kind of sustained support that IdahoPTV has the financial means to provide great services throughout the year.



—PBS steals big wins from HBO
at Primetime Emmys

<http://currentpublicmedia.blogspot.com/2011/09/pbs-steals-big-wins-from-hbo-at.html>

At the Primetime Emmy Awards Sunday night (Sept. 18), premium cable channel HBO "was beaten up in prestige categories by an unlikely foe — public broadcasting, which gets its funding from the government and viewer contributions," reports the Los Angeles Times. PBS won 14 statuettes (including the earlier Creative Emmy presentations) compared with HBO's 19, but Masterpiece's "Downton Abbey" walked away with some of the night's top honors, generally reserved for big-money HBO productions. The Brit import about an aristocratic family in pre-World War I England won for TV miniseries or movie; Julian Fellowes, series creator, also won the writing award in that category; and director Brian Percival and supporting actress Maggie Smith took those honors.



—In mid-September, the Outdoor Idaho crew led by Producer Sauni Symonds traveled to Elephants Perch, deep in the Sawtooth Mountains, for an upcoming program on rock climbing. How far into the SNRA? Well, you take a boat five miles across Redfish Lake, and then hike (with HD camera gear) three hours to Elephants Perch, elevation 8,200 feet. Then tack on another 1,000 for the journey up the Perch! Weow! Stay tuned for the program!



—Between August 19 and 22, IdahoPTV’s Marcia Franklin interviewed several authors at the internationally acclaimed Sun Valley Writers’ Conference including Colum McCann, Suzanne Maloney and Katie Marton. These interviews will be presented on Dialogue later this fall both on-air and online at www.idahoptv.org.



Colum McCann



Suzanne Maloney



Katie Marton



—On June 28, a group of donors to IdahoPTV enjoyed a wonderful evening of theatre under the stars with a performance of The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) at the Idaho Shakespeare Company. I want to thank our contributors and the Idaho Shakespeare Festival for their support of IdahoPTV.



—Idaho Public Television Served as Guest Bell Ringer at the August 20 Capital City Public Market

Idaho Public Television development director Megan Griffin helped kick off the start of business at the Capital City Public Market on Saturday, August 20, as the guest bell ringer at the popular weekend event in downtown Boise.

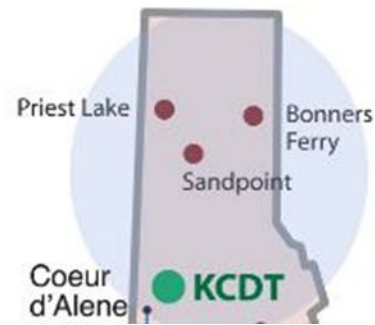
The bell ringing marks the start of sales activity of the weekly event.

Griffin and other Idaho Public Television staff members not only rang the bell to start the day's activities, but they also were on hand at the IdahoPTV booth on The Grove. The PBS affiliate encourages market-goers to stop by and learn more about membership with IdahoPTV.

—This season's D4K/Dialogue for Kids website is now online and the first episode is "Sport Physiology." Last season, D4K website enjoyed an amazing 990,777 page views!

Check it all out at: <http://idahoptv.org/dialogue4kids/>





—During the week of September 19th through the 22nd, members of the IdahoPTV engineering staff will be making an all out effort to convert Sandpoint, Priest Lake and Bonners Ferry translator services to digital operations. The over-the-air channel for Sandpoint will change from 16 analog to 30 digital. Priest lake will not change channels and will remain on Channel 42, but will be digital, and Bonners Ferry will change from Channel 23 analog to Channel 44 digital. Before hitting the road, Rich Van Genderen said “It is going to be a really busy week for

us, and we hope all goes as planned...I am sure there will be some bumps in the road,...there always are! We just got all of our equipment delivered and we can't diddle around waiting for better weather, that won't be coming anytime soon...wish us luck!”



IdahoPTV Mailbag

Dear IdahoPTV,



IPTV High definition 4-2 has disappeared from the available channels on Direct TV. What's up with that? Is it you or them?

Thanks,
Tim Teater, August 29, 2011

Dear Tim:

Thanks for your note. Alas, at the start of the digital transition in order to garner carriage of local PBS stations by DirecTV, PBS entered into an agreement on behalf of all the stations with DirecTV that they would carry local stations in High Definition if their primary channel was in HD. If it wasn't they would carry two of our channels in standard definition until such time as they were able to provide their main channel in HD. On August 9th, we were finally able to switch our main channel to high definition and DirecTV began carrying it in HD, but that meant they dropped our 4.2 channel. We continue to broadcast over-the-air all four of our digital channels - and offer them to all the cable and satellite companies for free, but we cannot compel carriage of anything except our main channel. I realize this isn't what you wanted to hear from us.

Depending on where you live, you can probably supplement your DirecTV service by getting us over-the-air with an antenna. Then you would get all four of our digital channels, free. Let me know if you would like help from us to walk you through that option.

I hope this information is helpful. Sorry to disappoint you with the change.

Ron Pisaneschi, IdahoPTV Director of Content

Our IdahoPTV Productions



Photograph: Pat Metzler, Copyright 2011 IdahoPTV

Field Notes: Documenting the Return of Idaho's Sockeye Salmon

Aug. 23rd, 2011 | Boise State Public Radio/Idaho Public Television

By Aaron Kunz, Idaho Public Television/Boise State Public Radio

<http://earthfix.opb.org/water/article/salmon-documentary-field-notes/>

STANLEY, Idaho — By mid-August, the evening and morning temperatures here hover around 31 degrees. At least that's what the built-in temperature gauge on the green Idaho Public Television Tahoe told us. The air temperature was colder than the water in the nearby Salmon River and Redfish Lake, causing an early morning mist on the water surface.

Two photographers with Idaho Public Television and I are here to photograph the beautiful and often elusive Idaho sockeye salmon for an Outdoor Idaho set to air in 2012. We brought two high-definition underwater video cameras and two standard high-def video cameras to cover all angles during the two days we were scheduled to shoot.

Snake River sockeye salmon were on the brink of extinction 20 years ago when just one returned to the natural spawning grounds. They're still listed by the federal government as an endangered species. But on this day there are eight bright red sockeye swimming just a quarter mile from Redfish Lake inside the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. Overnight, they would swim into a trap set by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game so the agency can track, monitor, and continue an effort to preserve the genetics of this federally protected species.

Mike Peterson with Idaho Fish and Game says most people believe his agency is working to recover sockeye but so far they have only been working on preserving the genetics so far. He hopes in a few years the department can transition to a recovery mission. He'd also like to see a hatchery built here at 6,547-foot elevation.

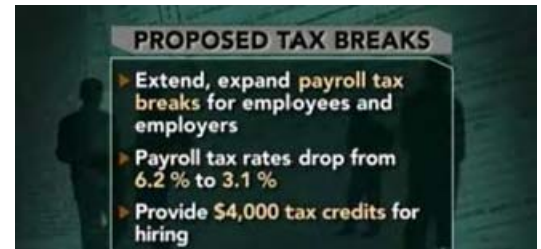
To capture video of the sockeye, we planted one of the two underwater cameras on the bottom of the stream to catch the salmon as they passed over the camera on their way upstream. The second underwater camera was attached to a long painter's pole so photographer Pat Metzler could follow their movements from the side and above. The water here is amazingly clear; we could easily see the stream bed 2 feet below.

Photographer Jay Krajic and I shot from above the water using polarized lenses to make the pictures just as clear as one can get. This is an all-HD shoot using both tapes and newer memory cards to store the footage. At night we would back up the memory cards on a laptop computer to store and view the footage. One difficulty with shooting with these underwater cameras is not being able to see what we are shooting. You hope it's getting the job done but we wouldn't know until the end of the shoot. We did miss a few shots because salmon kept running into the camera or the camera would run out of battery.



Idaho Economic Trends 2011

- Aired Thursday, September 15, at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT
- Repeated Sunday, September 18, at 5:30/4:30 p.m. MT/PT
- Watch it now: <http://video.idahoptv.org/video/2131292326/>



This program discussed Idaho Economic Trends 2011. The show on Education Budget Cuts originally announced for this week has been rescheduled to October 13.

Joan Cartan-Hansen looked at the state's current economic trends. She was joined on the live show by Mike Ferguson, director for the Idaho Center for Fiscal Policy; Steve Cooke, a retired professor of economics from the University of Idaho; and Cheryl Brush assistant deputy director for work force development from the Idaho Department of Labor.

President Barack Obama is promoting a new job bill across the country this week. What could it mean for Idaho? How is Idaho's economy doing? What types of jobs, if any, are coming to Idaho?

The rescheduled October 13 *Dialogue* will reveal the results of a second statewide survey of Idaho's school superintendents and discuss those results with a panel of state education leaders.

View or listen to *Dialogue* episodes in a variety of formats:

Over-the-air broadcast on Idaho digital Subchannel 1 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 12-KUID/26-KCDT, 4-KAID/13-KIPT, and 10-KISU. Analog signals remain available through cable and satellite and many translators; consult local suppliers for channel numbers.

Standard-definition over-the-air broadcast airs on World digital Subchannel 4 frequently throughout the week, days and evenings, times 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. *Dialogue* also is available through IdahoPTV's video player that also features national PBS shows ([video/idahoptv.org](http://video.idahoptv.org)).

Video download from <http://video.idahoptv.org>; ultra-high bandwidth required.

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

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

KISU FM audio-only airs in Eastern Idaho. Saturdays, at 12:30 p.m. MT.



Idaho's Redistricting Plan 2011

- Aired September 8 (Thursday) at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT
- Repeated September 11 (Sunday) at 5:30/4:30 p.m. MT/PT
- Watch it now <http://video.idahoptv.org/video/2122605596>

On this episode of *Dialogue*, host Joan Cartan-Hansen and her guests reviewed the Idaho Redistricting Commission's plans and discussed the potential impact on Idaho's congressional and state legislative races. Two members of commission and two political analysts joined Cartan-Hansen. The show's guests were Republican commission member Lou Esposito; Democrat member George Moses; Betsy Russell, Spokesman Review Boise bureau chief; and Gary Moncrief, a Boise State University political science professor.

The U.S. Constitution calls for a census every 10 years and then requires the states to reconfigure congressional and legislative districts to ensure equal representation. Idaho uses the commission to decide where those lines should be drawn.



Sports Physiology

—Aired Tuesday, September 20, at 2:00/1:00 p.m. MT/PT

On the 2011/2012 season opener, D4K host Joan Cartan-Hansen and her guests answered questions about sports physiology — the study of how the human body's parts work together to strive for optimum athletic performance.

Guests included Marc Paul, head athletic trainer for Boise State University; Barrie Steele, head athletic trainer for the University of Idaho; and Caroline Faure, assistant professor of sports science and physical education at Idaho State University.

Students can view a Web-only video with Paul, Steele and Faure answering questions that were not part of the on-air broadcast.

The D4K website (idahoptv.org/D4K) provides educational materials throughout the season. Students can access more information and facts about each topic, links, reading lists, a glossary, podcasts of programs, video shorts, full episodes and special D4K Web-exclusive programming.

Public Television in the News



Technology media, ethics are focus of Oppenheimer Ethics Symposium in Boise

The daylong symposium is free to the public.

- STATESMAN STAFF

Published: 09/15/11

Read more: <http://www.idahostatesman.com/2011/09/15/1799811/technology-media-ethics-are-event.html#ixzz1Y2wSXHGS>

The “Oppenheimer Ethics Symposium: Reinvigorating Ethics in Education and Practice in the Digital Age,” hosted by the University of Idaho, will be from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 20 at the Statehouse Auditorium in the Capitol in Boise.

“The news consumption patterns have been disrupted by new media technology, and people are getting news, information and advertising in ways that were not even imagined 10 years ago,” said Kenton Bird, director of the School of Journalism and Mass Media at the university. “There are new ethical challenges for the media and for media audiences, the people that depend on the media.”

The program includes:

- Bill Drake, chairman of Drake Cooper, a marketing services firm, who will discuss ethical practice in business and ethics education for future business leaders.
- Don Burnett, dean of the University of Idaho College of Law, will discuss “Journalists, Judges and Lawyers: Converging or Diverging Standards of Ethics.”
- Lisa McGrath, a Boise attorney who focuses on social media law, will talk on “New Media and the Law.”
- Jan Schaffer, executive director of J-Lab: The Institute for Interactive Journalism at American University, will discuss ethical issues in digitally based news.

The symposium is underwritten by U of I alumni Douglas F. Oppenheimer, president of Oppenheimer Cos., and Arthur F. (Skip) Oppenheimer, the company chairman and CEO.

Co-sponsors include the Idaho Humanities Council, Idaho Press Club, Idaho Business Review, Idaho Statesman, Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce and Idaho Public Television.



SpongeBob in hot water from study of 4-year-olds

Posted: Monday, September 12, 2011 12:00 am

CHICAGO (AP) — The cartoon character SpongeBob SquarePants is in hot water from a study suggesting that watching just nine minutes of that program can cause short-term attention and learning problems in 4-year-olds.

The problems were seen in a study of 60 children randomly assigned to either watch “SpongeBob,” or the slower-paced PBS cartoon “Caillou” or assigned to draw pictures. Immediately after these nine-minute assignments, the kids took mental function tests; those who had watched “SpongeBob” did measurably worse than the others.

Previous research has linked TV-watching with long-term attention problems in children, but the new study suggests more immediate problems can occur after very little exposure — results that parents of young kids should be alert to, the study authors said.

Kids’ cartoon shows typically feature about 22 minutes of action, so watching a full program “could be more detrimental,” the researchers speculated, But they said more evidence is needed to confirm that.

The results should be interpreted cautiously because of the study’s small size, but the data seem robust and bolster the idea that media exposure is a public health issue, said Dr. Dimitri Christakis. He is a child development specialist at Seattle Children’s Hospital who wrote an editorial accompanying the study published online Monday in the journal Pediatrics.

Christakis said parents need to realize that fast-paced programming may not be appropriate for very young children. “What kids watch matters, it’s not just how much they watch,” he said.

University of Virginia psychology professor Angeline Lillard, the lead author, said Nickelodeon’s “SpongeBob” shouldn’t be singled out. She found similar problems in kids who watched other fast-paced cartoon programming.

She said parents should realize that young children are compromised in their ability to learn and use self-control immediately after watching such shows. “I wouldn’t advise watching such shows on the way to school or any time they’re expected to pay attention and learn,” she said.

Nickelodeon spokesman David Bittler disputed the findings and said “SpongeBob SquarePants” is aimed at kids aged 6-11, not 4-year-olds.

“Having 60 non-diverse kids, who are not part of the show’s targeted (audience), watch nine minutes of programming is questionable methodology and could not possibly provide the basis for any valid findings that parents could trust,” he said.

Lillard said 4-year-olds were chosen because that age “is the heart of the period during which you see the most development” in certain self-control abilities. Whether children of other ages would be similarly affected can’t be determined from this study.

Most kids were white and from middle-class or wealthy families. They were given common mental function tests after watching cartoons or drawing. The SpongeBob kids scored on average 12 points lower than the other two groups, whose scores were nearly identical.

In another test, measuring self-control and impulsiveness, kids were rated on how long they could wait before eating snacks presented when the researcher left the room. “SpongeBob” kids waited about 2 1/2 minutes on average, versus at least four minutes for the other two groups.

The study has several limitations. For one thing, the kids weren't tested before they watched TV. But Lillard said none of the children had diagnosed attention problems and all got similar scores on parent evaluations of their behavior.

The New York Times

PBS's 'Need to Know' Turns to Roster of Guest Hosts

By ELIZABETH JENSEN

New York Times
September 12, 2011

<http://mediadecoder.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/09/11/pbss-need-to-know-turns-to-roster-of-guest-hosts/>

PBS's Friday newsmagazine "Need to Know" is turning to a rotating group of well-known guest hosts for the next several months, as it seeks a new permanent anchor in the wake of Alison Stewart's departure on Friday.

Jemal Countess/Getty Images for AWRT Maria Hinojosa, a former "Now on PBS" correspondent, is among the guest hosts.

First up is Scott Simon, the host of NPR's "Weekend Edition Saturday," who will fill in this week. Others to follow are Maria Hinojosa, the former "Now on PBS" correspondent who reports occasionally for "Need to Know," and Ray Suarez, a senior correspondent for "The PBS NewsHour."

A fourth guest host, Jeff Greenfield, has early career roots in public television but is best known from his work in the commercial television world; most recently, he was senior political correspondent at CBS News.

The program, which has been on the air since May 2010, will undergo other changes: It is being shortened to a half-hour from an hour and taking on a more politics-focused format, and the executive producer, Shelley Lewis, is leaving for a job elsewhere in television news. The new executive producer is Marc Rosenwasser, a longtime newsmagazine producer at ABC and NBC and the former executive producer of public television's "Worldfocus."

Stephen Segaller, the vice president of programming at WNET in New York, where the program originates, called the new anchor rotation an "interim arrangement."

"In principle, operationally, it would be easier and perhaps a little more traditional and predictable to have a single anchor," he said in an interview by phone. But all the guest hosts, he added, are a good fit for public television, and will give the program "some breathing room" as the station thinks about its future.

Broadband TV News

November launch for UK PBS

10.54 Europe/London, August 12, 2011 By Julian Clover

<http://www.broadbandtvnews.com/2011/08/12/november-launch-for-uk-pbs/>

The US Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) is to make its UK debut on November 1 as part of Sky's entertainment package.

A joint venture between PBS Distribution and the Canadian entrepreneur David Lyons, PBS will include the Ken Burns documentary Prohibition, together with its Nova science and Frontline documentary strands as part of a mix of news, sports, documentary and science.

PBS has hired Richard Kingsbury, the former head of UKTV's Good Food and Yesterday channels, as its general manager.

Although PBS is a co-producer of dramas including Downton Abbey and Sherlock, it is unlikely that the shows will find a place on the channel.

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Redistricters spar over lawsuit and whether taxpayers should foot legal bill

By Betsy Z. Russell

Sept. 9, 2011 2:51 p.m.

<http://www.spokesman.com/blogs/boise/2011/sep/09/redistricters-spar-over-lawsuit-and-whether-taxpayers-should-foot-legal-bill/>

On last night's "Dialogue" program on Idaho Public Television, Idaho redistricting commissioners Lou Esposito and George Moses were asked whether they think the redistricting commission should pay for the GOP commissioners' lawyers in their separate legal challenge, which was filed in addition to the Secretary of State's request for a writ of mandamus after the commission failed to agree on legislative and congressional district plans by its Tuesday deadline.

Esposito, a Republican, said, "We don't see it as a suit, really, and it's semantics, but we really do see it as a petition. ... We paid for all the initial filings and all the work out of our own pockets, the commissioners did. If this does become a protracted suit and we end up getting the specific guidance that gets us to a resolution, I'm confident that we'll end up having the attorney fees compensated by the state."

"I'm less confident of that," responded Moses, a Democrat. "I know that there are state officials who aren't real pleased about the idea of the state continuing to shell out six figures of money to private lawyers for stuff that's essentially state business. ... Procedurally, the commission never voted to hire any outside counsel like this, and it would take that in order to be able to pay someone. And you can understand why Democratic commissioners would be less than eager to pay to bring a suit like this one."

The Republican commissioners' lawsuit asks the court to adopt proposed Republican redistricting plans as superior to those proposed by Democratic commissioners. Esposito said, "Quite honestly, when we were putting all this together ... our attorney, who is one of the top attorneys in the country on this ... he posed the question ... do you want to ask the justices to approve a map? And we came to the conclusion, you know, it just doesn't hurt to ask sometimes, so we decided to ask."

Moses said, "The map that they've asked the court to adopt is a map that was presented to the commission in the last hour of deliberations. We never had a chance to look at it, we certainly never got to a point where we could vote on it, and now the Republican suit is asking the court essentially to pre-empt the commission and adopt a map that the commissioners never had a chance to consider. "

You can watch the full Dialogue program, plus a continued "Web Extra" discussion, online here.



Idaho Public TV hopes to go digital in Challis by fall BY TODD ADAMS

Although Idaho Public Television (Idaho PTV) is announcing this week that it will start broadcasting its primary channel via a High Definition (HD) digital signal, the change will not affect viewers in Challis.

That's because rural translators that still broadcast an old-fashioned analog signal will continue to do so.

IdahoPTV still sends an analog signal to Grouse Peak above Challis and probably will continue to do so until later this year, said Larry Smith, field engineer supervisor.

If all goes as planned, the Challis signal will be converted to digital before the snow flies this fall and blocks access to communication sites on area mountaintops, Smith said. Once the analog signal is converted to digital, Idaho PTV will be able to offer all four of its digital channels to local viewers, including the HD broadcast of its primary channel that other locations in Idaho will start getting shortly before midnight on August 8.

Switcheroo

The much-anticipated analog-digital TV conversion happened two years ago for many Idaho residents when Idaho PTV began broadcasting digitally from its primary transmitters. The switch allowed broadcast of three additional channels, which includes live coverage of the Idaho Legislature when that body is in session.

Challis viewers still only get one channel. The current analog signal starts as digital from the Idaho Falls-Pocatello area, but is converted to analog at a relay site near Summit Reservoir between Howe and Ellis, then beamed to Grouse Peak and into Round Valley, Smith said. Salmon viewers currently get their signal from Grouse Peak.

Station engineers are working on bringing a digital signal to Challis from a microwave tower atop Baldy, a mountain near Salmon, but so far the microwave relay isn't working and the digital signal breaks up, Smith said.

If engineers can't fix the microwave relay, they'll try Plan B, which is converting the Summit Reservoir site from analog to digital, he said.

If Challis gets its digital signal sometime this fall, Idaho PTV's analog transmission will cease, said Smith. So, Challis area viewers will have to get new digital TVs or converter boxes for their analog sets or risk a sudden fade to black. Converter boxes are still being sold at various electronics stores and on the Internet, Smith said, but the Federal Communications Commission's free coupon program is long gone.