



General Manager's Report

idahoptv.org

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QUOTE

"Your website is so kool! It really helps with homework."

From Summer, 4th Grader on the redesign of idahoptv.org

"After sitting up very late last night, crying through your documentary on the young women journalists in Afghanistan, I wanted to let you all know how much I appreciate your willingness to air that powerful story. We have far to go in this world, and as a professional woman (who has raised two strong daughters), I was reminded last night that my daily routine of just being a good person and going to work everyday is simply insufficient. I am inspired to action. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Best regards, Deb Gelet Managing Editor, Sun Valley Magazine"

the buzz

For more Buzz, checkout idahoptv.org

-Update, U.S. Department of Commerce Awards IdahoPTV Emergency Grant:

As previously reported, on Friday, September 24, the U.S. Department of Commerce Public Telecommunication Facilities Program (PTFP) had granted IdahoPTV an emergency grant to assist in the replacement of a production video switcher that ceased to operate due to weather caused power fluctuations. The PTFP grant of \$158,745 covered 75% of the total project replacement cost of \$211,660

Also, as previously reported, on September 19, IdahoPTV was notified by the State that circumstances surrounding the demise of the production video switcher did not form a valid claim under the State of Idaho's insurance system.

Much to our surprise in early November, the State of Idaho's insurance carrier, Chubb Insurance, notified us that they wanted to settle the claim. On November 9, 2004, IdahoPTV received a settlement check from the state totaling \$106,300.

As a result of these events, the U.S. Department of Commerce has re-evaluated the federal emergency grant of 75% federal match and determined that it would be reduced by approximately \$50,000. This decrease will be made up by the above-mentioned insurance claim funds.

It's never dull at Idaho Public Television.

-On Friday, December 3, IdahoPTV submitted a competitive grant request totaling \$436,000 to the newly created Corporation for Public Broadcasting Digital Ser-

vices Fund for a third season of FocusWest collaboratively produced programs examining significant regional issues. The FocusWest partnership includes public television stations in Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, and IdahoPTV. The anticipated project start date is April 1, 2005, concluding on March 31, 2006. CPB anticipates notifying grantees in late December.

-December Membership Events Raise \$66,202:

Over the last two weeks, IdahoPTV has held several on-air membership fund raising events which culminated on Sunday, December 5. Preliminary results indicate that \$66,202 was raised towards supporting IdahoPTV's programming and services. Highlights included the broadcast premier of "Vintage Idaho, An Outdoor Idaho Special" and "Josh Groban, Live from the Greek." IdahoPTV would like to thank CableOne.Net for sponsoring the "IdahoPTV.Org On-line Challenge." Also, we'd like to extend special thanks to Carpenters Custom Florists, Edwards Greenhouse, Dillard's, Mr. Formal, Baja Fresh Mexican Grill, Pastry Perfection and Pepsi for their support.

-IdahoPTV was mentioned in Horizon Air Magazine, November 2004 for the February 24, 2005 showing of THE JOURNEY OF SACAJAWEA at the Lewis & Clark Film Series at the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center in Great Falls, Montana.

-*Correction from the November 2004 GM Report:* Idaho Public Television will be partnering with the *Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign* to distribute 400 copies of "Outdoor Idaho: War of the Weeds" to schools statewide. Idaho and the West are fighting a war that may be unwinnable. Invaders with strange sounding names -- leafy spurge, dalmatian toadflax, tansy ragwort -- are costing Americans billions of dollars each year, and the end is nowhere in sight. The BLM estimates that, here in the West, we lose three thousand acres a day to invasive species, like rush skeletonweed, spotted knapweed, and yellow starthistle. These outlaw species are attacking us where we work...where we play...on land...and in the water. This program will be a significant tool for school and students to gain a better understanding of this significant Idaho resource issue.

IDAHOPTV STAFF UPDATES AND TRANSITIONS

-Five year veteran Alicia Strebe, Office Specialist II in the Development department, has left for an administrative assistant position at All Season's Health DDA, in Boise.

-IdahoPTV employee and Army Reservist Lee Henkel update: Lee's unit continues its training at Fort Lewis, WA. His unit expects to be transferred to Iraq in early winter.

IDAHOPTV SIGNALS UPDATE

-IdahoPTV did not broadcast its high definition service on digital television statewide between November 20 and 30 because of a malfunctioning encoding device located at our network operation center in Boise. The unit was sent back to the manufacturer for needed repairs. IdahoPTV HD service did continue for those customers of CableOne/Treasure Valley because of a newly installed fiber optic cabling system. The broadcast HD service returned to the airwaves on December 1.

-Viewers in the seven analog translator site service area for KUID are now enjoying significantly looking signals because of newly installed digital receive equipment. This is the first of several improvements to those translator sites that are a result of the federal grant that IdahoPTV received last spring. In addition, over the next two years, these translator sites will be upgraded with new digital ready translator units, antennas and other improvements.

-IdahoPTV engineering staff will be taking part in winter survival training in the mountains around Cataldo, Idaho in early December. Nearly all of IdahoPTV's transmission sites...more than 50 in all...are located on mountain tops. We believe this training will better prepare our employees for the difficult conditions they are asked to work in.

IDAHOPTV REACHES OUT

-Results from IdahoPTV's "Vintage Idaho" Fund Raiser at the Boise Art Museum.

On Saturday, November 20, the Idaho Public Television Foundation held a special fund raising event at the Boise Art Museum celebrating "Vintage Idaho."

The event featured the non-broadcast premiere of OUTDOOR IDAHO's newest production, "Vintage Idaho." Several winemakers highlighted in the film were on hand to share samplings of their wines with guests, and Mortimer's Idaho Cuisine provided hors d'oeuvres. In addition, a silent auction showcased a beautiful selection of items for bid.

Two hundred tickets were sold for the evening event, raising more than \$5,300 for the Idaho Public Television Foundation.

IdahoPTV would like to thank the following sponsoring organizations:

Boise Art Museum
Idaho Grape Growers & Wine Producers Commission
Mortimer's Idaho Cuisine
Edwards Green House
Carpenter's Custom Florist
Brown Rental
Boise Cab Company

In addition, we'd like to extend warm appreciation to the following wineries:

Bitner Vineyards
Carmela Vineyards
Hegy's South Hills Winery
Hells Canyon Winery
Indian Creek Winery
Koenig Distillery & Winery
Sawtooth Winery
Silver Trail Winery
Ste Chapelle Winery
Williamson Orchards
The Winery at Eagle Knoll

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS AND EVENTS DURING THE IDAHO LEGISLATURE

-IdahoPTV Open House for Idaho Legislators, TBD, week of January 10

-IdahoPTV FY'06 Budget Request Presentation: TBD

-IdahoPTV presents at the Idaho Historical Society Legislator Event, Thursday, January 27, 6pm

-Digital Government Day, February 9, 9am-4pm, Idaho State Capitol

-“IdahoPTV's Best” Local Programs and Services Overview:

-Gold Room, Idaho State Capitol, February 10, Noon-1pm & 3pm-4:30pm

DIALOGUE FOR KIDS LOOKS AT ZOOLOGY

—Airs Tuesday, December 21st, 2004, 2:00/1:00 pm MT/PT

Zoologists study animals of all shapes and sizes. They learn what animals eat and how they live. They study how animals, plants and humans all interact in the environment. What do you want to know about animals? How would you study them? Experts Steve Burns, Zoo Boise Director and Debbie Wiggins, Veterinarian, will be on-air to answer students' questions.

PATRICIA KEMPTHORNE READ TO IDAHO'S SCHOOL CHILDREN ON IDAHO PUBLIC TELEVISION

—Aired Friday, December 3 at 2:30/1:30 p.m. MT/PT

Idaho's First Lady Patricia Kempthorne read to children statewide via Idaho Public Television as part of a national effort, READ FOR 2005 on Friday, December 3 at 2:30/1:30 p.m. MT/PT. Kempthorne and other first spouses across the nation read to children for 2005 seconds (approximately 30 minutes). The program READ FOR 2005 shows Kempthorne as she read to fifth graders from Mill Creek Elementary School from Middleton, Idaho. They joined her in the studio for the recording of the program.

Kempthorne read from *A Christmas Gift for Mama* by Lauren Thompson and illustrated by Jim Burke. She also read *The Three Questions*, written and illustrated by Jon J. Muth. This book is based on a story by Leo Tolstoy.

"Idaho Public Television is pleased to be part of this national effort by first spouses. It stresses the importance of reading to children even after they can read themselves," said Kris Freeland, KUID Station Manager and Education Specialist.

The program is video-streamed on IdahoPTV's Web site for viewing anytime (idahoptv.org).

Classroom teachers were encouraged to continue the story after the statewide broadcast. Joan Cartan-Hansen hosted the program.

DIALOGUE PREVIEWED THE UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN IDAHO

—Aired Thursday, December 2 at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT

—Repeated Sunday, December 5 at 5:00/4:00 p.m. MT/PT

Host Joan Cartan-Hansen and guests previewed the 2005 legislative session on DIALOGUE.

Cartan-Hansen was joined on-air by Representative Bruce Newcomb, Speaker of the House; Senator Bob Geddes, Senate Pro Tem; Senator Clint Stennett, Senate Minority Leader; and Representative Wendy Jaquet, House Minority Leader.

As Idaho's Legislators gear up for a new session, Cartan-Hansen and leaders of Idaho's House and Senate talked about the major issues expected to cause controversy in the 58th Legislature, including two major water rights questions, the state budget and education issues.

Cartan-Hansen and guests took calls from viewers on a toll-free line.

VINTAGE IDAHO: AN OUTDOOR IDAHO SPECIAL

—Aired December 5 (Sunday) at 7:00 p.m. MT/PT

Good farming practices, some chemistry, a dollop of art and the good fortune to be in an unusually good wine growing area have helped Idaho's nascent wine industry grow and prosper for some 25 years.

"Basically, it is farming. The best wines are made by people who are good farmers," says Greg Koenig of Koenig Winery & Distillery at Sunnyslope near Caldwell.

Chuck Devlin of Ste Chapelle Winery, also at Sunnyslope says: "It all starts with the grapes and with the grapes it all comes down to ripeness ... That's the holy grail of growing grapes."

VINTAGE IDAHO chronicles a year in the Idaho wine industry from winter hibernation through the growing season, harvesting and processing the grapes into wine. Idaho Public Television producer Jim Peck and director/videographer Alan Austin visited 8 of Idaho's more than 20 wineries, stopping at Sandpoint, Moscow, Sunnyslope (Caldwell), Nampa and Glens Ferry.

Vineyards in Idaho are not a new phenomenon. They are part of Idaho's history.

"Actually it dates back to the late 1800s," says Brad Pintler of Sawtooth Winery, Nampa. "From then until Prohibition, there were wineries up through the Clearwater area and up along the Snake."

Idaho was singled out early by the Rothchild family, who planted at the mouth of the Snake River along with others, making Idaho the grape growing center of the Northwest, according to other vintners.

Between the coming of Prohibition in 1919 and the early 1980s, Idaho's winemaking was confined to individuals for their own use. But the state's volcanic soils, high elevations and low humidity were rediscovered by a new generation of winemakers and now boasts some 1,200 acres that grow wine grapes.

"It (Idaho) has great soil," says Steve Meyer of Pend d'Oreille Winery, Sandpoint. "There are long summer days where you're getting the ripening of the fruit and then cool nights as you get into August and September, which help maintain the balance and the acidity of the fruit, which in turn creates balanced wines and very elegant wines."

Idaho's wineries are bringing home awards from international and national competitions, causing the world outside Idaho to take notice of the industry.

"The first wine I did from start to finish here was a Semillon," says Neil Glancy of Carmela Vineyards, Glens Ferry. "And it went out and got a double gold medal in international competition. That meant basically out of 1,200 wines from seven countries, it finished in the top three percent."

A bonus of the wine industry is that it generates tourism.

"The greatest wine regions in the world have subsequently become really great tourist attractions," Koenig says.

"When you buy from a producer, you get to relive and share that experience with your family and friends around the dinner table," says Stuart Scott of Camas Prairie Winery in Moscow.

Steve Robertson of Hells Canyon Vineyards and Winery in Sunnyslope sums up the tourist experience at an Idaho winery: "They want to take a little piece of Idaho home with them."

ONE-HOUR DIALOGUE SPECIAL "ISLAM IN IDAHO" FEATURES YOUNG IDAHO MUSLIMS, DISCUSSION PANEL

—Aired Thursday, November 18 at 8:00/7:00 p.m. MT/PT
— Repeated Sunday, November 21 at 5:00/4:00 p.m. MT/PT

In a special one-hour DIALOGUE, Idaho Public Television producer Marcia Franklin examined the concerns of the growing number of Muslims in Idaho.

"Islam in Idaho" aired Thursday, November 18 at 8:00/7:00 p.m. MT/PT on Idaho Public Television and repeated Sunday, November 21 at 5:00/4:00 p.m. MT/PT.

In a video segment during the first half-hour of "Islam in Idaho," Franklin featured two young Idaho Muslims, two of some 6,000 who live in the Boise area. Maryam Mesmarian was born in Iran and moved to Idaho when she was in the seventh grade. Mikal Neff is a convert to Islam from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and an Idaho native from Shelley. Both attend Boise State University. They talked about how their faith informs their daily lives, and their concerns that Islam is being misunderstood.

"Since September 11, 2001, many Muslims have felt under increased scrutiny. But it has also been an opportunity for them to educate their communities about their culture," Franklin says.

After watching a video segment, Franklin and guests Said Ahmed-Zaid, electrical engineering professor at BSU and a leader on BSU's Cultural and Ethnic Diversity Board; Helal Omeira, executive director of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations; and Ameena Jandali, an educator with the Islamic Networks Group in Berkley, California, answered questions from viewers.

The show is available for later viewing on the IdahoPTV Web site (idahoptv.org/productions).