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**Quotes**

"I've fallen in love with Idaho after watching..a place to go one day without any doubt."  
 Ana Garcia

"I absolutely love the productions of Outdoor Idaho. You do outstanding work. Several years ago you did a segment on women "cowgirls", wranglers and herders that featured older women who had been doing the work for years. My regular Oregon PBS station is playing Outdoor Idaho this summer and we are loving it soooooo much. Thank you."  
 Sylvia Walp, Springfield, OR

"Thank you IPTV for the beautiful DVD of Capitol of Light!"  
 Mar, Library/ Media Coordinator  
 East Elementary, Nampa



"Thank you very much for this lovely addition to our school's library. We appreciate it very much."  
 Sincerely, Joanne Habben, Librarian  
 White Pine Elementary School, Boise

"We received the free dvd yesterday of the renovation of our State Capitol building and I just want to say "Thank You"! We'll get this into the library and make available to our staff. Again...thank you for this thoughtful gift for us to present this historical information to our students."  
 Sincerely, Pat Hunter  
 Clearwater Valley Elementary (K-6) librarian.

"Thank you for this gift! Our patrons will enjoy it."  
 Laura Burnett  
 Jerome Public Library



**OUTDOOR IDAHO Swings onto Golf Courses Around the State in "Idaho Fairways"**

—Aired Thursday, September 9, at 8:00/7:00 p.m. MT/PT  
 —Available on-line at idahoptv.org/video via IdahoPTV's video player

Many of Idaho's approximately 120 golf courses are best known for catering to local players and being a gathering place for their communities. OUTDOOR IDAHO producers drive, pitch and putt across the Gem state to visit some of its not-so-famous but well-loved courses.

Greens visited included ones near Ashton, Twin Falls, Wilder, Emmett, Orofino and Bonners Ferry. Some courses were designed by professionals, others built by farmers. From hillsides to canyons, from sharing space with an airport to links behind a protective strip of forest, Idaho's small courses offer unique experiences.

IdahoPTV producer Sauni Symonds says, "It was hard to pick which courses to include in the show; there are so many gorgeous ones in Idaho. We decided to focus on the unique and/or scenic hometown courses in different parts of the state."

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## Idaho Public Television Serves Idaho

By Peter W. Morrill, General Manager

August 12, 2010

Our friend Wayne Hoffman is at it again, arguing in a guest column that state financial support for Idaho Public Television is actually "a crime against those of us who believe government is too big, too powerful and too intrusive in our lives."

And he quotes Ezra Taft Benson to make his argument. What Wayne doesn't perhaps realize is that Mr. Benson was a member of the board of directors that initiated public television in Utah, and that he appeared on its productions for many decades.

Ezra Taft Benson definitely saw the benefits of public television.

But more to Wayne's basic argument: that state funding for the infrastructure of public broadcasting is wrong, because it's not the proper role of government, as it competes with commercial television stations.

Many of us believe that the State of Idaho's investment in the arts, culture, libraries, museums and Idaho Public Television has borne great results. It is easy for those of us who live in the Treasure Valley to sometimes forget that access to cultural, educational and civic opportunities simply doesn't exist in many parts of our far-flung, rural state.

Programs like Sesame Street, Nova, and Globetrekker, and our local Idaho series like Outdoor Idaho, Dialogue, Dialogue For Kids (D4K), Idaho Reports and the Idaho Debates give Idahoans a better understanding of our complex world.

And, frankly, many of these shows are not programs the commercial stations are in a position to provide. Take, for example, our coverage of the Idaho Legislature, Idaho Legislature Live. Idahoans can now watch on-air gavel-to-gavel coverage of the House and Senate proceedings, as well as online coverage of all the standing committee hearings including video from the Joint Finance–Appropriations Committee. For many, this would be deadly dull television and would not register a blip on the Nielsen ratings. But it is part of our mission to provide such information to the citizens of Idaho, and for many folks, it is their best connection to representative government.

The Idaho State Broadcasters Association agrees. For the fourth year in a row, this consortium of commercial TV and radio stations is helping to provide major funding for the broadcast of the upcoming legislative session. We are not competitors; we are partners united to connect Idaho citizens to their elected representatives in Boise.

As we look to the future, we are excited about the potential of our many new digital channels, and of our expanded efforts on the Internet, where you can now watch video streams of many of our national and local shows, just by going to [video.idahoptv.org](http://video.idahoptv.org).

There is one thing that Wayne definitely got right: He acknowledged that “the folks at Idaho Public Television produce excellent, stylish and substantive local programming.”

We thank him for that vote of confidence, and we will do our best to continue to give Idahoans the quality television and online media they have come to expect.

Read Wayne Hoffman’s column, “What’s proper government role: That’s the real question.”

<http://www.idahoptv.org/press/showStory.cfm?StoryID=47551>

## the buzz



—I’m pleased to let you know that on September 1, 2010, we began digital translator service to Glens Ferry. This is especially noteworthy because this is not only new digital service, but also free, over-the-air service which has not been offered (analog or digital) in the past. This “fill-in” service was made possible by FCC regulatory changes made over the last two years which recognizes the limitations and offers mitigation for digital television service issues. Our new translator channel is on 32 and the project was funded by a 2009 grant from the United State Department of Agriculture. Also, in late August, we completed the digital conversion from analog of our translators that serve Burley, Malta and Albion.

—On Wednesday, August 25, the Board of Directors of the Friends of Idaho Public Television elected a new slate of officers who will serve a one year term. They are:

Erna Rhinehart, President (Coeur d’Alene)  
 Chuck Prince, First Vice President (Pocatello)  
 Ron Graves, Second Vice President (Boise)  
 Joy Fisher, Treasurer (Moscow)  
 Byron Defenbach, Secretary (Boise)



I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Eve Chandler for her year of service as President. It was a challenging year for IdahoPTV and she served with great distinction and energy.

I would also like to thank Gayle Wilde, Jim Paxton, John Crim and Rick Youngblood for their terms of service on the Friends board. They have all contributed much to make IdahoPTV an outstanding service for the people of Idaho. I’m including the Mailbag section below notes from Jim and Rick.



—I’m pleased to let you know that on July 26, the Board of Directors of the Idaho State Broadcasters Association renewed their support totaling \$35,000 toward the operating costs of “Idaho Legislature Live” for the 2011 session! The ISBA joins the Idaho Association of Counties who has committed their support toward this vital service. Many thanks need to go to our staff, led by our production manager Jeff Tucker, who have grown this service over the last few years and to the ISBA for this generous contribution.



Later that evening, the Idaho State Broadcasters Association gave awards to two Outdoor Idaho programs at their annual banquet. “Let Me Be Brave” won for Best Sports Program. “Wolves in Idaho” won for Best Public Affairs Program. And “D4K” won for Best Audience Promotion, TV Using Television. Congrats to our great content creation staff!



—As teachers and librarians began preparing for a new school year, Idaho Public Television distributed, free of charge, 575 copies of the documentary “Capitol of Light: The People’s House,” which explores the renovation, remodeling and expansion of the State Capitol Building as well as some of the history behind Idaho’s most significant building.

An iconic building for Idaho citizens, this documentary will help teachers illustrate the grandeur and significance of Idaho’s Statehouse and its place in Idaho’s history and future.

In addition to the DVD, <http://idahoptv.org/productions/capitoloflight/> contains an area specifically designed for students and teachers to take a “virtual” field trip to the Capitol and will further enrich the study of our capital in classrooms across the state. We’ve have already begun hearing back from local schools...

*“Thank you so much for the documentary Capitol of Light: The People’s House. I am sure it will be well used at Grace Jordan Elementary.” .... Toni Barry*

Capitol of Light can be watched on-line at: <http://video.idahoptv.org/video/1396275223>

The Web site is located at: <http://www.idahoptv.org/productions/specials/capitoloflight/>



—On August 18, Vice President Joe Biden announced 66 grants awarded by the U.S. Department of Commerce to expand broadband infrastructure including a proposal from the Idaho Commission for Libraries for \$1.9 million to upgrade public computing centers in 55 libraries. In addition, partnerships with other Idaho agencies and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will provide \$942,816 toward this effort. Idaho Public Television is one of the partners and will provide on-line learning resources from both national and local sources as well as on-air promotion of the project. IdahoPTV will receive approximately \$75,000. Stay tuned for more announcements on this exciting project.



—Late July was busy for “Idaho Legislature Live” streaming service. On Tuesday, July 27, the Governor’s Task Force on Modernizing Transportation Funding was audio streamed. In addition, that same week on July 29 the House Ethics Committee met to consider charges against Representative Phil Hart of Coeur d’Alene. Both committees met at the Idaho State Capitol.

—On Thursday, September 9, I received a nice note from Richard Budzich, Budget Analyst, Division of Financial Management, regarding IdahoPTV’s Zero Based Budgeting submission for our fiscal year 2012 request.



“To Peter Morrill and Tim Tower, first of all, I want to compliment Idaho Public Television (IPTV) for its Zero Base Budget submission. Your narrative agency justifications, delivery system/education content decision package budget breakout and legal mandate listing were impressive. The Division of Financial Management appreciates IPTV’s efforts on this unique financial self-assessment.”



—I wanted to let you know last month both the Otter for Idaho Campaign and Allred for Idaho campaign confirmed their candidate's participation in the Thursday, October 28 debate on Idaho Public Television. I'm including "The Idaho Debates" current schedule. Funding is provided by Boise State University College of Social Science and Public Affairs, the Friends of Idaho Public Television and the Idaho Public Television Endowment.

#### **Superintendent, Tuesday, October 5**

8 p.m. MT/7 p.m. PT  
(60 min)  
Stan Olson (D)  
Tom Luna (R)

#### **Senate, Tuesday, October 12**

8 p.m. MT/7 p.m. PT  
(60 min)  
Mike Crapo (R)  
Tom Sullivan (D)

#### **Lt. Governor, Thursday, October 7**

8 p.m. MT/7 p.m. PT  
(30 min)  
Brad Little (R)  
Eldon Wallace (D)

#### **1st Congressional, Thursday, October 14**

8 p.m. MT/7 p.m. PT  
(60 min)  
Walt Minnick (D)  
Raul Labrador (R)

#### **Secretary of State, Thursday, October 7**

8:30 p.m. MT/7:30 p.m. PT  
(30 min)  
Ben Ysursa (R)  
Mack Sermon (D)

#### **Governor, Thursday, October 28**

8 p.m. MT/7 p.m. PT  
(90 min)  
Keith Allred (D)  
Ted Dunlap (L)—Tentative  
Jana Kemp (I)  
C.L. "Butch" Otter (R)  
Pro-Life (I)



—On July 28, Producer Thanh Tan and Director of Content Ron Pisaneschi were panelists for a nationwide Web conference that explored and discussed how to engage diverse communities more effectively with public media.



**facebook**

## **IdahoPTV Mailbag**

Hi Peter,

Thank you very much for the "Certificate of Recognition" and letter that was dropped by my store this week. I really appreciate you, Eve, the rest of the Friends Board of Directors and staff for recognizing me by this nice memento. I trust you all are doing well and are hard at it to bring the quality of IPTV to viewers across our wonderful state of Idaho. Please pass along my best to everyone at IPTV and keep up the good work! Thanks again!!

Jim Paxton  
Owner Snake River Pool & Spa, Inc.  
Boise & Twin Falls

Dear Peter,

Wow. I just received a completely unexpected but truly grateful “thank you” plaque and letter from both of you representing all my newest friends at Idaho Public TV. Please know I was and will be forever a true fan and supporter as I can of Idaho Public TV. It was truly my honor to serve with such gracious-caring fellow supporters and staff. I know your future will continue to be bright as there are thousands of Idahoans who appreciate and count on the service you so adequately provide. Blessings to all of you, I look forward to seeing you along the way!

Best,  
Rick Youngblood  
President, Intermountain Bank



## IdahoPTV Staff Updates

—On September 1, IdahoPTV Director of Fiscal Affairs Toni Ward retired from nearly 20 years with the State of Idaho. She is pictured above at her retirement gathering with some of the IdahoPTV staff who performed a loving (?) tribute to the profession of accounting. Don't ask...it was lots of laughs!



—On September 7, the search committee for the IdahoPTV Director of Development position met and decided to accept more candidate applications over the next month. For more information regarding this position, please check out: <http://www.idahoptv.org/about/careers.cfm>.

I'd like to acknowledge the efforts of Eve Chandler, Bev Harad, Nancy Viano, Ron Pisaneschi, and Sandy Crane for their efforts thus far.

—On September 9, the search committee for the IdahoPTV Director of Fiscal Affairs met and narrowed the field of 67 applications down for interview of 3 candidates in late September. I'd also like to thank Joy Fisher, Byron Defenbach, Gene Sparks, Ron Pisaneschi, Sandy Streiff and Sandy Crane for their efforts!



—Please join me in officially welcoming Bob Evancho to our public information staff. He is now our part time public information assistant and provides writing and editing expertise on Channels, press releases as well as other projects. We are pleased to have him as part of the communications department and the Idaho Public Television family.



—Also please join me in congratulating Kellie Sengenberger as she officially joins the IdahoPTV staff as our Office Specialist 2, supporting Corporate Sponsorship. Kellie has worked here on a part-time basis for the last two years. Patience, perseverance, and tenacity are but a few of Kellie's qualities. While working at IdahoPTV, Kellie recently finished her Bachelor of Science in Business Management at the University of Phoenix, maintaining 4.0 GPA and a super attitude.



## Our IdahoPTV Productions

### Behind the Scenes of "Idaho Fairways"

By Sauni Symonds  
August 27, 2010

*"Golf is deceptively simple and endlessly complicated; it satisfies the soul and frustrates the intellect. It is at the same time rewarding and maddening - and it is without a doubt the greatest game mankind has ever invented."*

*Arnold Palmer*



When I pitched the idea of doing an "Outdoor Idaho" about golf, I was practically booted out of the room. Ok, maybe not booted, but there were definitely some raised eyebrows. Golf? On "Outdoor Idaho?" My response: Yes! Why not? The game is an outdoor experience usually played in a very scenic location. And I knew that a large majority of Idahoans golf; so I felt that a huge portion of our audience would enjoy the show. I wanted to focus on the small town golf course, off the beaten path, rather than the larger well known links in the state. A golfer myself, I had played some very sweet little courses in rural towns.

Since Idaho is home to so many beautiful links, it was hard to narrow the field; but I ultimately decided to showcase courses in different regions of the state. I picked them not only based on the location, but because each one had its own unique characteristics. I stayed away from private clubs and looked for family-owned or community-operated courses. My quest led me to some not-so-typical links in the hinterlands of Idaho. And, of course, photographer Chuck Cathcart and I took our clubs along.



What we discovered, for the most part, were some of the friendliest people in some of the most scenic corners of Idaho. We visited Canyon Springs, set deep in the Snake River Canyon near Twin Falls; Aspen Acres, nestled within a grove of aspen at the base of the Tetons in eastern Idaho; River Bend in Wilder, carved out of farmland near the Snake River; the Emmett City Golf Course, which shares space with an airstrip; the Orofino golf course, near the Clearwater River, home to some of the most gorgeous fairways I've even seen; and beautiful Mirror Lake in Bonners Ferry, where the community has pulled together to keep the golf course in the black.



These are Idaho Fairways. You won't find them anywhere but here. They're definitely worthy of being "Outdoor Idaho!"

Watch the program on-line at:

<http://video.idahoptv.org/video/1588013891>

## Planes & Pack Trains Converge

By Bruce Reichert  
July 22, 2010

“Wilderness in the 21st Century” airs October 21st & 24th  
“Flying Idaho” airs December 5th



Pack Animals for the Wilderness

It's not often that two OUTDOOR IDAHO stories we're working on converge so nicely. But it's happening this summer with “Flying Idaho” and “Wilderness in the 21st Century,” two programs currently in production. That's because there are two things Idaho has in abundance: airstrips and wilderness.

Idaho is one of the most pro-aviation states in the union. In fact, we have more airports and airstrips per capita than any state in the lower 48. And many of those airstrips are in the backcountry.

One of them, Indian Creek airstrip, is sometimes busier than the Boise airport, hauling in rafts and tourists who can't wait to float the Middle Fork of the Salmon River.

Bart Welch, the former director of aeronautics, told me that he used to spend a high percentage of his time keeping the 50 or so backcountry airstrips open. “Years ago, Montana had almost the same number of airstrips that Idaho has,” he noted. “Today, they have four open to the public.”

His point is that it's a constant struggle, a constant fight to remind folks that pilots and airplanes have a place in the wilderness, too. It's one of the reasons that Idaho pilots volunteer to work on backcountry airstrips, clearing brush and filling gopher holes. And it's why the Idaho Aviation Foundation hosts “Wilderness Within Reach,” a program that flies the handicapped into places like Sulphur Creek Ranch, free of charge, for a weekend in July.



Indian Creek Airstrip: Rick Gerrard photo

And that brings us to our Wilderness show. So, what do people want from wilderness in the 21st century?

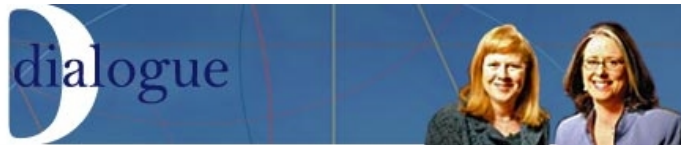
Craig Gehrke of the Wilderness Society told us that airplane noise is the #1 complaint he hears from his constituents. But in 1980 the only way to win enough votes in Congress to create the River of No Return wilderness was to ‘grandfather’ in the many airstrips. That happened also in 1964, with the creation of the Selway-Bitterroot wilderness. The beautiful airstrip at Moose Creek ranger station was part of the deal.

Our Wilderness show will feature a segment on the iconic Moose Creek ranger station. But earlier this summer, we weren't sure we'd be able to show you this special place. We were told that wilderness precluded cameras. It wasn't until the Chief of the Forest Service reversed that decision that our cameraman, Jay Krajic, got the go-ahead to land on the Moose Creek airstrip in an airplane, with his camera.



Moose Creek from the air.

Pack trains and small planes seem to co-exist well at Moose Creek. And that's part of the story we'll be telling.



## Wolf Management

- Airs September 16 at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT
- Repeats September 19 at 5:30/4:30 p.m. MT/PT
- See it in HD September 16, at 9:30/8:30 p.m. MT/PT

DIALOGUE host Marcia Franklin is joined by Cal Groen, director of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and Jon Rachael, F&G's wildlife carnivore and big game manager, to discuss the recent court decision by U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy that put the gray wolf back on the Endangered Species List.

In his decision, Molloy ruled that Wyoming doesn't have an adequate management plan for hunting wolves and that the Endangered Species Act does not allow the federal government to subdivide a distinct population segment so that a species is listed in part of a region and delisted in the another part of the same region. As a result, Molloy ruled, federal protections for wolves must be reinstated throughout the region. The ruling halted Idaho's wolf-hunting season.

U.S. Senators Jim Risch and Mike Crapo have sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar asking him to appeal the decision. Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter has also asked Salazar for a new Memorandum of Understanding that would allow for wolf hunting in Idaho.

View or listen to DIALOGUE episodes in a variety of formats:

Over-the-air broadcast on Idaho digital sub-channel 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.

High-definition over-the-air broadcast on HD digital sub-channel 2 airs Thursdays at 9:30/8:30 p.m. MT/PT, with repeats Sundays 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT, on channels KUID-12, KCDT-45, KAID-21, KIPT-22 and KISU-17. The high-definition broadcast also is available through some cable companies; consult local suppliers.

Standard-definition over-the-air broadcast airs on World digital sub-channel 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](http://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](http://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.



## School Budget Cuts Update

—Aired September 9 at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT

School is back in session and educators find they have a lot fewer resources in the classroom. School districts across the state are living with an historic cut in education funding from the State Legislature. But there is some hope for relief from the federal government. What will the impact of these new federal funds be on Idaho's schools? How are schools faring now that the kids are back in class?

Host Joan Cartan-Hansen brought back four educators and administrators from around Idaho to get an update on the impact of school budget cuts on the state's school children. Guests included Geoffrey Thomas, Madison School District Superintendent; Linda Clark, Meridian School District Superintendent; Mark Moorer, Potlatch School Board Member; and Sherri Wood, Idaho Education Association President.



## Repeal 17th Amendment?

—Aired September 2 at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT

DIALOGUE began its 17th season with a discussion on the 17th Amendment. Host Joan Cartan-Hansen and her guests debated the Idaho Republican Party's vote in favor of the repeal of the 17th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gives voters the right to directly elect their own U.S. senators. The Idaho GOP's vote was held during its 2010 state convention earlier this year.

Cartan-Hansen was joined by state Rep. Pete Nielsen, R-Mountain Home; state Sen. Elliot Werk, D-Boise; and David Adler, director of the University of Idaho's James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research. Adler's appearance was supported by funding from the Idaho Humanities Council.

In 1787, George Mason called on his fellow delegates at the Constitutional Convention to let state legislators elect U.S. senators as a check on the new federal government. Mason's idea prevailed and for more than 100 years as voters elected their U.S. representatives and state legislators elected U.S. senators.

But in the early 1900s, U.S. Sen. William Borah of Idaho sponsored efforts to reform the Constitution and called for the direct election of U.S. senators. In 1913 the United States adopted the 17th Amendment, which called for senators to be elected by popular vote.



## 2010-2011 D4K Broadcast Show Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
September 21	Gravity	February 15	Force and Motion
October 19	Exoplanets	March 15	Urban Wildlife
November 16	CSI	April 19	Earthquakes
December 14	Owls	May 17	Snakes
January 18	The Brain		



## Gravity

—Airs September 21, 2010 at 2:00 p.m./1:00 p.m. MT/PT

Gravity is the force of attraction between two objects. It is what makes things fall and what keeps us from floating off into space. Gravity is a fundamental force of nature. How does it work? Is gravity the same everywhere in the universe?

Host Joan Cartan-Hansen and four Boise State University Engineering students will answer young people's questions about gravity on September 21. Cartan-Hansen will be joined by Jake Forsberg, Pamila Ward, Alex Miller, and Brian Pieree.

D4K is Idaho Public Television science education project for elementary age children. Students watch D4K over the air or on the D4K Web site. They can send their questions through e-mail to [D4K@idahoptv.org](mailto:D4K@idahoptv.org), fax them in before the show to (208) 373-7245 or call in live during the program to (800) 973-9800. Students who send in a question are eligible to win prizes for their classroom. The D4K Web site offers facts, links, reading lists, a glossary, podcasts of programs; video shorts, full episodes and special D4K web exclusive programming.

## Public Television in the News



### Mirror Lake featured on Outdoor Idaho tonight

Posted: Thursday, Sep 09, 2010 - 04:06:33 pm CDT

Bonnors Ferry Herald

"Idaho Fairways" premieres at 7 p.m. today in Idaho Public Television, and Mirror Lake Golf Course is one of six not-so-famous but well-loved golf courses from around Idaho.

During their visit, Outdoor Idaho film crews talked with Mayor Dave Anderson and his wife, Laura, who both golf and help out regularly at the course.

"We are complimented all the time by people from out of town who come here and play," he said. "This place has a lot of nuances. You have to be somewhat of a shot-maker, you have to know what directions you are coming in on some of these greens based on flag placement."

Also featured in the show, which will be re-broadcast at 7 p.m. Sunday, are the golf courses in Ashton, Twin Falls, Wilder, Emmett and Orofino.

"It was hard to pick which courses to include in the show, there are so many gorgeous ones in Idaho," said producer Sauni Symonds. "We decided to focus on the unique and/or scenic hometown courses in different parts of the state."

# The Johnson Post

By Marc Johnson

Wednesday, September 8, 2010

**Ralph Smeed, One of the Characters**

<http://thejohnsonpost.blogspot.com/>

My dad loved to say that every town had a "town character," but that in his hometown the characters had a town. If the same can be said of a state, then Ralph Smeed, the crusty, 88 year old libertarian who died yesterday, was one of Idaho's true characters.

I don't remember when I first met Ralph, but I do remember it was at the other end of a telephone line. I had just finished what I am sure was another fairly routine half-hour on Idaho Public Television interviewing a panel of guests on some political or economic subject. The phone rang and Smeed boomed down the line: "Johnson, your idea of a good show is getting two liberals to disagree..."

Hello, Ralph Smeed.

Over time the phone calls became more frequent and I came to know Smeed for his unflinching brand of libertarian politics and his political quips delivered almost always with a smile and genuine humor. He was the bane of all liberals, the mostly cheerful opponent of "government TV" - his term for PBS - a champion of Adam Smith, fierce opponent of "statism," and one of those guys who if not always right, was never in doubt. I have no idea about Ralph's religious views, but God rest him. I suspect, if he gets a chance, he'll be engaging St. Peter over the unfairness of the inheritance tax.

Ralph Smeed is one of those characters who can't help but enrich our political system. As a learning journalist, much younger and, I'm certain, much more sure of myself than I had any right to be, Smeed taught me a lesson. He would argue that his brand of libertarian, unfettered free market politics rarely, if every, received the time that news organizations routinely devoted to more conventional conservative vs. liberal debate. He was right then, of course, but that pendulum has swung.

I would argue back in the early 1980's that when Smeed's essential views gained a larger following they would be featured more prominently. He would respond that it would be hard for the libertarian point of view to gain a greater following if the so called "main stream media" didn't interview their spokesmen. Touche. I think we both had a point.

I like to think I became more open as a result of this running dialogue and I did have the pleasure of reminding Ralph a time or two that he had to watch "government TV" in order to hear Milton Friedman or William F. Buckley.

Ralph may have warmed a little when I had the chance to interview Buckley, an encounter he helped to arrange, while the then-host of the PBS program "Firing Line" made a visit to Caldwell. It was one of the better, more interesting interviews I ever did and I happily came away with an autographed copy of Buckley's then-latest book, ironically not about politics, but sailing.

You have to like a guy who stood for his beliefs. Not always right, in my view, but never in doubt and someone who could - and would - good naturedly debate his views with anyone. In a way, I envy a guy like Ralph who could be so completely confident in his world view. I don't think life - or politics - is ever quite so black and white, but as I said, we need the Ralph Smeed's to enrich the great debate.

College of Idaho political scientist Jasper LiCalzi summed up Smeedism in a comment to the Idaho Press-Tribune: "Smeed has been very vocal. No one has ever questioned where he stood. If anything, from where he started, (Canyon) county and I guess the state are closer to his ideology."

Whether you believe that is good or bad, it is a true statement.

## THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Eye On Boise

September 3, 2010

### Western lawmakers to converge on Idaho

Legislators from 13 western states are headed to Sun Valley Sept. 11-14 for the 63rd annual meeting of the Council of State Governments-West, which this year is being hosted by the Idaho Legislature. More than 400 people are expected to attend. Speakers will include pollster Frank Luntz, National Public Radio correspondent Mara Liaason, economist Jeff Thredgold, and futurist Thomas Sanderson, who will talk about the world in 2025. There'll be a North America Summit on trade with experts from the U.S., Canada and Mexico; "legislative effectiveness training;" policy forums on everything from state budget challenges to energy, environment and health care; and Idaho Public TV will host a Western Legislative Innovations Fair on ways to improve legislative efficiency and transparency.



### Gov. Christie pushes bill to convert New Jersey Network into independent entity

Published: Thursday, September 02, 2010, 8:34 PM

Peggy McGlone/The Star-Ledger

[http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2010/09/gov\\_christie\\_seeks\\_to\\_convert.html](http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2010/09/gov_christie_seeks_to_convert.html)

TRENTON — Gov. Chris Christie submitted legislation today designed to end the state's four decades of support for the public television network, NJN, by year's end.

The Governor's plan calls for the Treasurer to take inventory of the network's assets and find the best way to complete a sale or transfer of them, according to a release from Christie's office. The bill requires this step be completed by Nov. 1 and the list shared with the public broadcasting authority and the Legislature.

It also allows the Treasurer to negotiate directly with an existing public broadcasting outlet and to accept proposals for the sale or transfer.

The administration says it wants to make sure the "successor to NJN can fulfill the responsibilities of maintaining a New Jersey-focused public broadcasting operation," according to the release.

Christie's 2011 budget passed in June cut NJN's direct state aid to \$2 million and called for the state's \$11 million subsidy (for salaries, and buildings) to end as of Jan. 1, 2011. To meet that goal, the state has started the notification process required by the collective bargaining agreements and Civil Service Commission rules. Some 95 of the network's 129 employees are unionized.

Dudley Burdge, spokesman for the Communications Workers of America, the union representing most of NJN's staff, called the plan "completely unrealistic."

#### PREVIOUS COVERAGE:

- N.J. Legislature weighs fate of NJN public television station



Frank H. Conlon/For The Star-Ledger  
In a television camera monitor, News Anchor Jim Hooker prepares for the evening news broadcast at the New Jersey Network Studios in Trenton, NJ on 4/22/10.

- NJN may struggle to survive after Gov. Christie cuts network's state subsidy

"It will be extremely destructive to the network and especially to its news and public affairs programs," said Burdge, who said the complex deal would take longer than four months to complete. "There's a statute establishing New Jersey Network, so how they just have the Treasurer negotiate with some one to take it over, I don't know."

Created in 1969, NJN is one of the largest state public broadcasters in the country, operating five TV channels and a radio network of seven frequencies.

The governor's action comes days after NJN's interim director, Howard Blumenthal, announced his resignation Sept. 17, exactly a year after he was hired.

Janice Selinger, a network veteran who had been chief operating officer, is the new acting executive director. She said the network will cooperate with the Treasurer and lawmakers "in their fact-finding efforts."

"NJN is the only broadcast system, both commercial and public, that covers the whole of New Jersey," she said. "We believe in the importance of continuing this broadcasting service to ensure essential coverage of information and Jersey-centric programming that would not be covered by other entities."

In July, the Legislature created a 10-member bipartisan task force to consider the governor's idea for restructuring the network. Hearings have been scheduled for Sept. 14, 16, and 23.

Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver (D-Essex) called Christie "disingenuous" for publicly releasing his recommendations without working directly with the special committee. She had not yet seen the proposal, but said lawmakers want to protect this "valuable asset."

"There needed to have been work between the executive branch and NJN and Sen. Nia Gill and her committee," said Oliver, referencing the task force chairwoman. "Without question, NJN has maintained a high caliber of programming. I would not support seeing NJN fall into the hands of someone who would make it anything less than what it is today."

Christie's spokesman Michael Drewniak had no additional comment.



### **Digital TV comes to Burley, Malta areas**

Times-News Magicvalley.com

Sunday, August 29, 2010

Idaho Public Television engineers are working to complete the installation of equipment at Burley and Malta translators by the end of August that will provide a digital television signal to the area.

"Viewers who receive an over-the-air signal in the Burley-Rupert and Malta areas need to complete the conversion to digital television. They need either a television with a digital tuner or a set-top box for an analog TV," said Rich Van Genderan, director of Idaho Public Television in a press release.

After the conversion they will need to scan for the new signal, which will be seen as channel 13, but will be divided into four sub-channels, each offering different programming. The conversion will provide sharp-clear images when the digital signal begins, Van Genderan said.

An antenna with UHF capability will still be needed to capture the signal.

A translator on Old Beacon Hill southeast of Burley will send a digital signal to an area that includes Burley, Heyburn, Rupert and Paul. The signal will provide four digital channels in place of the traditional single analog channel, according to the press release.

The digital signal will appear on digital television sets and digital set-top boxes as channel 13 and will replace analog channel 14.

Engineers are also changing the equipment on Cottrell Mountain that will cover Malta and Albion. It will appear as channel 13 as well.

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### **Giving Up on the Idea of New Jersey?**

By Bob Szuter | August 28th, 2010

PolitickerNJ.com

<http://www.politickernj.com/giving-idea-new-jersey>



A Legislative Task Force has begun to take a look at the plan to de-fund and then privatize the New Jersey Public Broadcasting Authority, aka NJN Public Television. This comes as no surprise, as the legacy of pecking away at the state funding of this public institution has been a budget-time tradition which started soon after the enthusiastic support of the Tom Kean years waned.

When the State of New Jersey created the entity that became NJN, it did so because New Jersey's geographic position between two of the largest television markets in the nation left it devoid of any coverage. Political leaders bemoaned the fact that citizens were ill-informed, apathetic, and not united by any sense of New Jersey pride.

Tom Kean was, in fact, one of the first New Jersey Governors to recognize how television could help bring both unity and dignity to a state that had historically been divided by parochialism and tarred by negative media images concocted by outsiders; his "New Jersey and You: Perfect Together" campaign is still legendary in its novelty and effectiveness in bringing the Garden State some identity and pride.

Television may be more diverse in its supply of useless info-tainment today, but New Jersey has yet to have a state-wide commercial television broadcast station, or a major commercial television network on its soil that provides any informative New Jersey programming. Commercial media's poor service to the New Jersey audience hasn't changed much, and so the mission of NJN is as relevant as ever, perhaps even more so with the contraction of reporters at television outlets from Philadelphia and New York. So why did the reductions in state funding continued year after year, even before the current crisis?

Since the mid-1990's, NJN's government-appointed leadership chose to turn away from state funding in order to follow the "public-private partnership" model. That philosophy does have value, but only if both the public and the private funding efforts remain robust. NJN has allowed the public side of the partnership to lapse, much to the relief of a series of Governors and Legislatures who made it look like they were "getting tough" on spending.

The cuts were always significantly harmful to NJN's budget even though the savings to the overall State budget were minimal, but the political points were scored. These cuts were products of a long-term shift in people's thinking about public funding and how it relates to public entities whose charge it is to step in where the marketplace does not.

In *There's More to New Jersey Than the Sopranos* (2009), historian Marc Mappen wrote that New Jersey has actually evolved into one of the nation's wealthiest states. "The latest federal statistics show that New Jersey has the highest per capita income of any state, and if we were peeled off from the United States and made a separate country, ... we would be the wealthiest nation in the world. The rest of the United States would come in second, followed in third place by Luxembourg."

A survey published last year on The Huffington Post ranked the top 15 wealthiest counties in the U.S., and it placed Hunterdon County as having the fourth highest median income in the country, followed by Somerset County (#7) and Morris County (#8). Despite this very respectable standing in the economic world, New Jersey's citizens receive no attention from the media marketplace when it comes to in-depth news coverage or programming that features the best of New Jersey, unless you count Jersey Shore or the occasional thirty second perp walk on commercial news.

The marketplace is where New Jersey as a state always loses. Again, Marc Mappen: "Why this enduring condescending attitude toward our little state? ... from the start New Jersey was different from other colonies ... we did not have a major city such as Boston, New York, Philadelphia, or Charleston with their powerful religious, economic, and cultural elites that could boast of their importance in the solar system. ... And split between the New York and Philadelphia regions, our identity has been shaped by outsiders. Ever since Babylon, urban elites have looked down their noses at the rural hinterland, and regarded the inhabitants of those hinterlands, at best, as their social inferiors or, at worst, hopeless rubes."

By giving up on NJN and becoming one of the few states in the nation to not support a public television station, we would bring New Jersey back into the media void. The most densely-populated state in the nation, and one of the wealthiest, would have no statewide television to call its own. New Jerseyans will depend on the kindly and better people of New York and Philadelphia to provide both public television and "local" news, and get whatever those outlets can spare; the inevitable New Jersey putdown or scandal will do.

As public institutions and public funding steadily have become politically incorrect, so has the well-meaning "public-private partnership" lost its appeal; now "privatization" is being floated as the new solution.

Despite the fact that according to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting 95% of public television stations receive funding from state government, the State of New Jersey is now considering de-funding and letting NJN go to a private group, who will now have to contend with the economic realities of the marketplace and the favor of private funders who may or may not be interested in "statewide" issues. Just this year legislators in Virginia rejected an effort to defund public television and legislators in Idaho said no to the privatization of Idaho Public Television.

For years New Jersey legislators and past governors could have been investing more, not less, in this public-minded institution. Since its establishment, NJN has focused on building some sense of a state awareness within New Jersey, providing news, public affairs, and cultural programming that informs and educates viewers.

NJN has provided this service to citizens no matter where they live or what political party they belong to. No commercial network with mega-bucks can claim to reach all of New Jersey, nor have they ever come close to providing the wealth of substantive New Jersey coverage that NJN has. (See for yourself: check out the News and Program archives at [njn.net](http://njn.net).) In the past two decades, NJN has also produced shows that have been seen nationally on PBS, providing Americans with a fairer, more reasonable depiction of New Jersey to the rest of the country.

NJN really isn't in the television business; it is a public institution mandated to serve all of New Jersey citizens with public television, radio, and media for New Jersey, about New Jersey. It is an experiment in bringing this very divided state together. If the State of New Jersey can't support that mission, who will? Please take a moment to remind both the Legislature and the Governor to re-think ending this forty-year attempt at trying to change the second-rate status of New Jersey.

Bob Szuter is a Writer/Producer at NJN PUBLIC TELEVISION. Bob has been the producer/director of several acclaimed programs about New Jersey that have gone "national" including Green Builders and Morristown: Where America Survived. His views are not necessarily those of NJN.

# THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Spokesman Review

Huckleberries

## **Marty: Cheers For Guv Debates**

Posted by DFO at 8:58 a.m. on August 27 Comments (1)

In his weekly Cheers & Jeers column, Marty Trillhaase/Lewiston Tribune writes: "CHEERS ... to Gov. C.L. (Butch) Otter. He's the incumbent Republican in a Republican state. He's ahead of Democratic challenger Keith Allred by, depending on the poll, at least 11 points. So the prudent thing for Otter would be to dispense with Allred in one obligatory debate. Not this time. Otter has agreed to share the stage as many as five times in this campaign:

CHEERS ... to Gov. C.L. (Butch) Otter. He's the incumbent Republican in a Republican state. He's ahead of Democratic challenger Keith Allred by, depending on the poll, at least 11 points. So the prudent thing for Otter would be to dispense with Allred in one obligatory debate.  
Not this time.

Otter has agreed to share the stage as many as five times in this campaign:

Aug. 19's debate at the Idaho Falls City Club.

Sept. 15 at the Boise City Club.

Oct. 7 at Lewiston, sponsored by the Tribune, the Moscow-Pullman Daily News and KLEW. (Otter's people say this is tentative. They're still working out the schedule.)

Oct. 13 at Caldwell, presented by Boise's KTVB, Spokane's KREM and Idaho Falls' KIFI television stations.

Oct 28 at Boise, broadcast statewide over Idaho Public Television and co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the Idaho Press Club.

Having so many regional debates allows ordinary citizens to get their questions answered. The Idaho Falls audience asked candidates about a proposed uranium enrichment plant. Lewiston's debate may focus on controversial mega-truck shipments proposed up U.S. Highway 12. Caldwell's forum may bore in on illegal immigration.

Allred has much to gain from this. Sharing the podium gives him exposure and credibility.

So does the public, of course. Nowhere else can people examine candidates in action and unscripted.

An incumbent who is leading in the polls, however, risks more than he gains from debating. So credit this governor for entering the arena.



### **In Idaho, a reluctant candidate runs for Congress**

KTVB-TV

Updated Aug 25, 2010 06:02AM

BOISE, Idaho

Democrat Mike Crawford's name will be on the November ballot in a U.S. House race, but the Idaho attorney says he never intended to actually run an active campaign against congressman Mike Simpson.

In fact, Crawford says he doesn't really have a problem with Simpson as his congressman.

Crawford says the Idaho Democratic Party approached him earlier this year and asked him to put his name on the ticket to run against Simpson, a six-term Republican who represents eastern Idaho.

Crawford told KTVB-TV that he agreed to be a placeholder, and reluctantly opened the door for a political career that has little to show for itself. He's not out shaking hands. There are no Mike Crawford signs or buttons.

But voters should have a choice, Crawford says, which is why he is keeping his name on the ballot.

# INDIAN COUNTRY TODAY

## The Kootenai Tribe's forgotten war Documentary a testament to Amy Trice

By Jack McNeel, Reporter

Indian Country Today

Story Published: Aug 24, 2010

<http://www.indiancountrytoday.com/national/northwest/The-Kootenai-Tribes-forgotten-war-101164449.html>

BONNERS FERRY, Idaho – The date was Sept. 20, 1974 when Amy Trice, then chairman of the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, declared war on the United States. The tribe only numbered 67. The odds certainly weren't good but the outcome, now 36 years later, has been very good.

In a recent interview Trice talked of those days and the improvements seen now. "We didn't have any housing, no jobs, nothing. They asked if I'd run for the council and I said if I'm put in I will do my best to do what I can for my people. I got on and we hired Doug Wheaton. He was my right hand man. We sat down, talked, and wrote letters to the BIA and others and asked for grants to build houses and build a highway. Our highway was bad and people would get stuck in it every spring from the rain. We were told (by BIA) we had to have at least 125 members (or they couldn't help). That made me mad. Doug and I discussed it and decided there was no place else to go. So we said, 'let's go to war.' We said it jokingly but it turned serious and we did go to war."

The war didn't involve guns and violence but did involve charging others to drive across tribal land. It also had the larger impact of alerting many people to the conditions on the reservation. It got national attention. It was even reported internationally in such places as France, Germany, Israel and Ireland. And, it has resulted in drastically improved conditions for the Kootenai people.

Asked about the results, she said, "I think it's wonderful! We got a hatchery and just got another place at Twin Rivers and we're going to put in another hatchery there. We just bought another property adjacent to the Kootenai River Inn." Highways and housing are much improved as well.

She does have one regret. "Teenagers now just take it for granted. They should use grants to go to school and get educated, that's the next step for our tribe to excel." The tribe has increased to 141 members.

Sonja Rosario decided to produce a documentary, which she titled, "Idaho's Forgotten War: A Lost Tale of Courage." It was scheduled to air on Idaho Public Television Aug. 10. Rosario had heard from tribal Chairman Velma Bahe about Trice in 2002 but had put it aside. In 2006, she received another call, this time from Valerie Fast Horse on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation saying Trice had double pneumonia and if she were to pass away, "Idaho would lose its history and the Kootenai Tribe would lose its past."

"The film is really a dedication to what Amy did and why she declared war against the U.S. government," Rosario said. "It's also a dedication to those who are no longer with us, can no longer speak on their behalf. It's a testament to what one person can do when they take action.

"As far as I know Amy is the only woman in U.S. history to declare a war against the government. That's an incredible statement coming out of Indian country where women traditionally are the matriarchs and men are in leadership. This is probably the last American Indian war declared officially, with a war bond and an official letter sent to the government and a letter sent to President Ford. This is huge. It's a testament to what one can do and will do when you love and are committed to your community.



Pictured: Sonja Rosario, left, produced the movie "Idaho's Forgotten War: A Lost Tale of Courage" about the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho declaring war on the United States. Rosario is pictured with former tribal chairwoman Amy Trice, and movie actress Patty Duke.

"There had to be a lot of love coming from Amy Trice for her people to have taken the stand she did at that time. It was just off the cuff of 1973, the American Indian Movement and Wounded Knee. There was a lot of violence against American Indians at this time. There was a concern she'd be murdered.

"The Idaho senators at the time wanted to make sure Amy and the Kootenai Tribe got what they needed to move in a direction to enhance their lifestyle: health wise, spiritually, and emotionally. These were people who had been forgotten for a long time.

"Amy is an incredible woman. I am honored and blessed to have gotten to know her personally and professionally. Emotionally and spiritually she has been a pillar for me."

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### **Editorial: Surprisingly, skepticism about Otter in Magic Valley**

Twin Falls Times/News

[http://www.magicvalley.com/news/opinion/editorial/article\\_1277343d-24aa-56a5-86a9-148b6ffa73d5.html](http://www.magicvalley.com/news/opinion/editorial/article_1277343d-24aa-56a5-86a9-148b6ffa73d5.html)

Posted: Monday, August 23, 2010 1:00 am

If you can depend on anything in Idaho, it's that the Magic Valley will be reliably Republican in a gubernatorial election. It still may be in 2010, although the results of a recent Republican poll are eye-opening.

A survey taken last month by GOP pollster Greg Strimple for the Idaho Hospital Association found that Republican Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter isn't especially well-regarded in south-central Idaho. Strimple said 46 percent of respondents in the Magic Valley TV market viewed the governor unfavorably, while 35 percent rated him favorably, according to the Idaho Statesman which obtained results of the survey last week.

Statewide, Otter led Democrat Keith Allred 47 percent to 36 percent, according to Strimple.

Caveats abound. It's a small sample — 400 people statewide.

Still, 10 weeks before the election it suggests that the governor hasn't yet closed the deal in south-central Idaho.

Five possible reasons:

1. The economic time-warp. The economy in south-central Idaho responds to national trends more slowly than the economies of Ada and Canyon counties and other parts of the state. So even though employment in the Magic Valley has been relatively stable, prosperity hasn't returned.
2. Doubts about Otter as a leader. The governor's inability to get a gas tax increase through the Legislature in 2009 and his unsuccessful gambit to zero out funding for the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Idaho Public Television and other state agencies earlier this year left some Idahoans wondering who was running the state.
3. Policy. Otter's gas-tax hike initiative played badly in the Magic Valley, largely because of the distances folks here must drive. And now that the reality of the magnitude of cuts to public schools is sinking in, there are more unhappy parents and educators.
4. Keith Allred. The Democratic nominee for governor grew up in Twin Falls, and although he hasn't lived in the Magic Valley for years he has the endorsement of a still-influential south-central Idaho Republican, former state

Sen. Laird Noh of Kimberly. Allred is a straight arrow and personally conservative, and it doesn't hurt that he's member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Days Saints — which means that some Magic Valley voters aren't rejecting him out of hand just because he's a Democrat.

5. Expectations. Frankly, many Magic Valley Republicans expected the Otter administration to be a slam-dunk success. It hasn't been yet, partly because of factors — namely the national economy — over which the governor has no control. But if south-central Idaho was expecting a conservative Cecil Andrus, it hasn't seen him yet in Otter. The governor has too often been tentative, deferential or simply absent.

It would be astonishing if Otter lost the Magic Valley on Election Day — no Republican has done so since Roger Fairchild in 1990 — but the governor has some work to do here.

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## The Johnson Post

The Johnson Post

By Marc Johnson

August 21, 2010

<http://thejohnsonpost.blogspot.com/2010/08/debating-debates.html>

### **A Short History and a Few Suggestions**

Let's give credit to the two major candidates for governor of Idaho. They have debated early and apparently will debate often between now and November 2. That hasn't always been the norm in Idaho.

In many past elections, incumbents have often deemed it in their best interest to sit on their lead, while going into the political equivalent of Coach Dean Smith's four corner basketball slowdown offense. Coach Smith, the great North Carolina legend, wanted to control the game knowing that the opponent can't score without the ball. This year in Idaho things look different. Otter and Allred seem ready to run the floor.

Allred seemed to generate the most headlines in the first encounter with his charge that Otter is a "career politician," while Otter defended his handling of education budgets and quipped that the Democrat was the "first college professor" he'd ever run against. Otter zinged Allred for talking about a top-to-bottom review of the state's myriad tax exemptions without offering specifics.

Long-time political observer Randy Stapilus pointed out that both candidates know their Constitutional history and "tossed in so many references to the 'founding fathers' that you began to wonder if either of them really understands that the year is 2010, not 1790. But then, this (was) an Idaho Falls audience."

There will be more debates and that is all too the good.

I think there may be just a handful of debates in recent Idaho political history that had any real impact on an election. The two Frank Church - Steve Symms debates in 1980 may not have been decisive in that historic race, but I believe they helped Symms, a glib conservative with a reputation for the controversial, off-the-cuff remark, establish that he could hold his own with the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who was one of the Senate's best debaters and an eloquent speaker.

As I recall those encounters, and I moderated both of them, Symms was on the attack at every turn and Church, a four-term incumbent, was generally on the defensive and not just from Symms' charges, but also from a massive national effort engineered by a conservative political action committee. The media coverage of those debates - usually the source of the greatest political consequence - tended to call the encounters a draw, but in many ways that equalled a win for the challenger Symms.

In 1986, the debates featuring Symms and then-Governor John Evans, who was challenging for the Senate seat, and Lt. Gov. David Leroy and then-former Gov. Cecil Andrus, who were seeking the governorship, were spirited and important.

Beyond those encounters, its hard to recall an Idaho debate that made much impact, which is not to say that they aren't important - very important - to the democratic process.

Here's a suggestion. Idaho needs a more formalized, standardized approach to political debates. The model is the Commission on Presidential Debates, the group that organizes the now standard debates featuring the Republican and Democratic candidates. The Commission determines the location for the face-offs and generally manages the logistics. At various times in Idaho, the Press Club, the League of Women Voters, Idaho Public Television and individual news organizations have organized - or tried to organize - debates. This week's debate in eastern Idaho was organized by the Idaho Falls City Club and the format - clean, straightforward, presided over by a single moderator - seemed very well done.

Unlike Thursday's Otter-Allred encounter in Idaho Falls, Idaho debates are typically held in Boise. But debates should be held around the state and public TV (and anyone else who wants to) should broadcast them.

The regional piece is really important. It's hard to believe a gubernatorial debate anywhere other than eastern Idaho would have generated a question about the Areva uranium enrichment project near Idaho Falls. A debate in Lewiston this cycle would ensure that questions would be asked about the controversial plan to haul massive oil field equipment up Highway 12. Idaho is a state of regions and having the debate spread around would be good for the state, the candidates and regional issues.

So, how about an Idaho Commission on Gubernatorial Debates? Each major political party could appoint a representative to the Commission and they in turn could agree on a third member. The Commission could seek proposals from various cities or organizations, like the City Clubs in Idaho Falls and Boise, to sponsor debates and then conduct the negotiations about formats and other details with the various camps. The Commission could select the moderators and spend the time and effort needed to determine eligibility for third-party or independent candidates, most of whom never mount a serious campaign and should not get in the middle of a discussion between those who will win elections.

A Commission would have the added benefit of keeping the members of the Fourth Estate, the press, out of the debate organizing and sponsoring role. News organizations should cover debates, not determine formats and who participates. Media organizations have often found it impossible to say "no" to debate participation by fringe candidates and some of the formats for past television debates in Idaho, apparently in an effort to make the debate move faster or seem more interesting, have been so prescriptive with time limits and "lightening rounds" as to seem more like game shows than serious discussions of serious issues.

In past Idaho elections candidates have also, from time-to-time, played various media organizations against one another in order to position for maximum benefit to their own campaigns. Nothing really wrong from with that from the standpoint of political strategy except that it tends to make the negotiations difficult and prolonged. There have been occasions when debates sponsored by news organizations actually end up limiting coverage rather than enhancing it. A Commission would do away with this type of gamesmanship.

One final observation. Having seen debates from all sides as a moderator, organizer and aide to a candidate, I've come to understand that generally speaking campaigns and candidates hate the idea of debates. At best, they often consider a debate a necessary evil. They know they will catch flack of they dodge debating, but most candidates - the underdog being the notable exception - would rather make a trip to the dentist. Debates take time to prepare for, they can be high risk and low reward events and there is always the chance for the game changing gaffe or stumble.

All the more reason to standardize the events, raise the bar on expectations for gubernatorial debates and make these every four year political events a truly institutionalized part of Idaho campaigns.

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## IDAHO MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

Idaho Mountain Bike Trail Preservation Association

By Geoff

August 20, 2010

I had the pleasure of being interviewed yesterday by Bruce Reichert with Idaho Public Television on the issue of federal Wilderness designations and my take on how mountain bikers and mountain biking fits into the picture. Of course, the big Wilderness issue right now in Idaho is CIEDRA, which (if passed by Congress) would close some pretty great trails in the Boulder/White Clouds to mountain biking (but leave some open to both mountain bikes and motorized users.) Steve Stuebner was interviewed as well. I think Steve and I were pretty much consistent in our position - we both want to see open lands protected, but are torn on Wilderness designations due to their unintended negative impact on our access to trails.

As Steve (or Bruce) pointed out, when the Wilderness Act was drafted in 1964, the sport of mountain biking wasn't even invented yet. Later, mountain bikes were determined by federal officials to fall in the category of "mechanized" use, and thus banned from use in federally-designated Wilderness areas. However, as a silent, human-powered activity, it would seem to me that mountain biking is compatible with Wilderness designation and Wilderness uses. I stated that, in terms of views on trail use and environmental protection, mountain bikes and bikers usually have more in common with other non-motorized hiking/backpacking users, but our right to ride is usually supported by the motorized users who commonly (and ardently) oppose Wilderness designation. So, we find ourselves in no-man's land on the issue - having something in common with both opposing sides, but being a part of neither. I told Bruce that the brass ring really is the removal of the prohibition on mountain biking in Wilderness, not opposing Wilderness designations.

So, tune into your local IPTV channel on October 21 for "Outdoor Idaho" and learn a little bit more about CIEDRA and the players in the game. Hopefully, Steve and I will have put in a positive word for the mountain bike community!

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### **First gubernatorial debate set for Thursday in Idaho Falls**

By Dustin Hurst, idahoreporter.com

August 17th, 2010

The City Club of Idaho Falls will sponsor the forum

Since May, Republican Gov. Butch Otter and his challenger, Democrat Keith Allred, have been taking swipes at one another via the media in order to gain favor with voters. The two men will finally have the chance to stand face-to-face and debate policy differences during a debate in Idaho Falls on Thursday.

Otter and Allred will appear together for the first time at a debate sponsored by the City Club of Idaho Falls. The forum begins at 12:00 p.m. and is expected to run for an hour and will be held at Idaho State University's (ISU)

campus in Idaho Falls, in the Student Union Building. Shea Andersen, spokesman for the Allred campaign, said that all seats that come with a lunch included have been sold out, but that there are about 50 spots in the gallery left for purchase.

The debate will be moderated by David Adler, a former ISU professor who is now employed with the University of Idaho.

Andersen said Allred is ready to discuss the issues of the day about which Idahoans care. "Keith is looking forward to talking about his vision for lower taxes and stronger schools for Idaho," Andersen told IdahoReporter.com. "Allred's experience as a leader of The Common Interest, a nonpartisan citizens' group, showed him just how frustrated Idahoans are that Butch Otter isn't listening to everyday Idahoans but to the special interests that bankroll his many campaigns. Keith is eager to talk about once again making Idaho government 'of, by and for the people.'"

Ryan Panitz, spokesman for the Otter campaign, said that the incumbent is eager to put the accomplishments of his administration on display this week. "Gov. Otter has worked non-stop to put Idaho on the right track over the last four years," said Panitz. "He's made the necessary and responsible decisions and can't wait to show the people of eastern Idaho why they should put their trust in him for another four years." Panitz explained that Otter will look to pin Allred down on the issues important to the citizens of Idaho. "Otter looks forward to asking the tough questions of our Democratic opponent. He's done enough dancing around with generic ideas. It's time for him to stop posturing without reality."

Three candidates on the ballot in November with Otter and Allred were not invited to attend. Independents Jana Kemp and Pro-Life, as well as Libertarian Ted Dunlap, didn't receive enough support in a recent Rasmussen Reports poll to meet the club's guidelines to qualify for debate participation.

The debate will not be broadcast live, but KISU, the radio station affiliated with ISU, will record the forum and broadcast it at a later date. Visit KISU's website for scheduling details. Otter and Allred will debate several more times between now and November, when they face off at the polls. The two men will debate again on Sept. 15 at the City Club of Boise, and will appear together at the Statehouse in Boise sometime this fall for a debate sponsored and broadcast statewide by Idaho Public Television.

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## THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Huckleberries Online

Spokesman Review

**Butch OKs Club Of Picky Boise Debate**

August 16, 2010

In mid-May, Gov. Butch Otter rejected an invitation to appear in a primary election forum saying some of his opponents were excluded from the event because they didn't meet certain requirements set forth by Idaho Public Television (IPTV), which sponsored the debate. However, Otter has decided to attend a debated slated for Sept. 15, sponsored by the City Club of Boise, which has chosen to exclude three gubernatorial candidates for not meeting certain polling thresholds. The City Club of Boise, a civics-minded organization dedicated to bringing political discussion to its members and the community at-large, decided in August to exclude Independents Jana Kemp and Pro-Life, as well as Libertarian Ted Dunlap, from a debate in September/Dustin Hurst, Idaho Reporter.



## Otter won't pull out of debate over candidate exclusions

By Dustin Hurst, IdahoReporter.com

August 16th, 2010

In mid-May, Gov. Butch Otter rejected an invitation to appear in a primary election forum, saying some of his opponents were excluded from the event because they didn't meet certain requirements set forth by Idaho Public Television (IPTV), which sponsored the debate. However, Otter has decided to attend a debated slated for Sept. 15, sponsored by the City Club of Boise, which has chosen to exclude three gubernatorial candidates for not meeting certain polling thresholds.

The City Club of Boise, a civics-minded organization dedicated to bringing political discussion to its members and the community at-large, decided in August to exclude Independents Jana Kemp and Pro-Life, as well as Libertarian Ted Dunlap, from a debate in September. The organization said that Kemp, Life, and Dunlap failed to garner enough support in a recent Rasmussen Reports poll, which showed that Otter held a 53-36 lead over his Democratic challenger, former mediator and college professor Keith Allred of Eagle. The club decided to only include Otter and Allred in the forum, citing the poll results.

Otter's campaign manager, Debbie Field, said that there are key differences between City Club of Boise and Idaho Public Television. "He believes that because IPTV receives taxpayers' dollars, everyone should have been included if they are on the ballot," explained Field. "Because city club doesn't receive taxpayer dollars, it's not the same." Otter and his team don't want to see the three outsiders kept out of the forum, however. "We have accepted the city club debate, but we ask that everyone on the ballot be included in the event," said Field.

This isn't the first time Otter has been encircled by debate controversy. Earlier this year, Otter declined to debate GOP challengers Rex Rammell and Sharon Ullman because IPTV excluded Pete Peterson of Boise, Walt Bayes of Wilder, and Tamara Wells of Post Falls from the event for not meeting guidelines of what the television station considered to be active campaigns.



### Donna Yule: The budget crisis has not made Idaho better, governor

READER'S VIEW IDAHO GOVERNMENT

BY DONNA YULE - Idaho Statesman

Published: 08/11/10

Really, Gov. Otter? Idaho's "leaner and better"? The recession gave you an "opportunity to make state government more efficient"?

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand that Idaho government has not become more efficient under Gov. Butch Otter, and certainly not "better."

Gov. Otter just doesn't understand the plight of the working people of Idaho. He is a career politician who has gotten where he is because of his personal relationships with rich people and big corporations. And he wants to keep his government job at the expense of all of the rest of us.

In good times, the services public employees provide are taken for granted, but in this recession, all of us are learning that we depend on and appreciate the services those public employees provide for us. Call it a "social safety net" or "socialism" or whatever you want, but let's face it: We all want those services and we all need them.

I, for one, am glad when my neighborhood streets are seal-coated and my garbage is picked up. I'm glad doctors are providing services to Medicare patients so our parents and grandparents are able to get medical care. I'm glad we have a Social Security system so our elderly neighbors who just lost everything they had in their 401K plans can put food on their tables. I'm glad there is unemployment insurance for our friends who are now unemployed through no fault of their own.

I enjoy visiting our Idaho parks without paying exorbitant fees, and I appreciate it when the restrooms in those parks are clean and well-maintained. I'm glad our food-processing plants and restaurants are inspected regularly by government inspectors.

I want every Idaho child to get a quality education with good teachers, small classrooms and current textbooks. I want families to send their high school graduates on to a good college or university without having to mortgage their homes or borrow against their retirement savings. And I want every little kid in every little town in Idaho to be able to watch Big Bird on TV.

Yes, I even want the old homeless Vietnam vet that I see wandering the streets of Downtown Boise to have a warm place to stay and an opportunity to get into some kind of program that might help him get his life in order.

We all want government to be efficient, Gov. Otter, and public employees are the best people to help you figure out how to deliver quality services at the best possible price. After all, Idaho public employees are Idaho citizens, first and foremost. But remember the old adage "you get what you pay for," and this continued cutting of Idaho's budget just results in a lack of needed services or in a decreased quality of those services.

In no one's imagination is Idaho's government now "leaner and better." Get a clue, Gov. Otter.

Donna Yule is executive director of the Idaho Public Employees Association.

Read more: <http://www.idahostatesman.com/2010/08/11/1298767/the-budget-crisis-has-not-made.html#ixzz0wJPqNBN4>



### **What's proper government role: That's the real question**

By Wayne Hoffman, Idaho Freedom Forum

Guest Column

Idaho Press Tribune

August 9, 2010

In his essay "The Proper Role of Government," Ezra Taft Benson wrote, "Seldom are men willing to oppose a popular program if they, themselves, wish to be popular — especially if they seek public office."

I'm not seeking an office, but the quote stuck in my head last week after a reporter posed a curious question to me. She asked, "Name a government program that you feel does its job well."

Of course, the inference from such a question is that I, the leader of an organization that believes in limited government and is trying to conquer statism, thinks that all government is bad and every government program is an unmitigated disaster. Additionally, the question is supposed to subject me and my conservative/libertarian friends to scorn and ridicule if I can't think of a single government program I believe works.

But the question itself misses the point: What is the proper role of government?

Doing a good job shouldn't exempt a government program from termination. Example: Idaho Public Television. The folks at Idaho Public Television produce excellent, stylish and substantive local programming. Unfortunately, Idaho Public Television is government television, and it is the government competing for viewers with commercial television, to the detriment of for-profit programmers.

Commercial television stations have to make money in order to stay in business. Government does not.

What's more, Idaho Public Television falls outside the scope of the proper role of government. Why should it be the government's job to own and operate a television station? Should the government also operate a newspaper in order to bring news to the masses?

The more important question is, in the case of Idaho Public Television, do we feel comfortable taking money away from the people who earned it in order to give it to the government so that the government can bring us all Sesame Street?

I not only think it is a shame that the government does this, it's a crime against those of us who believe government is too big, too powerful and too intrusive in our lives.

Benson wrote, "I believe we Americans should use extreme care before lending our support to any proposed government program. We should fully recognize that government is no plaything... It is an instrument of force, and unless our conscience is clear that we would not hesitate to put a man to death, put him in jail or forcibly deprive him of his property for failing to obey a given law, we should oppose it."

So my answer to the reporter is simple: Yes, there are government programs that do their jobs well, but I relish the day those programs that fall outside the scope of government go away. Maybe that statement, as Benson predicted, will make me unpopular with some people, but if in taking a stand against unlimited government we can, as my friend Ralph Smeed says, "make statism unpopular" and once again secure the blessings of liberty, it's a risk we all need to be willing to take.

- Wayne Hoffman is the executive director of the Idaho Freedom Foundation. E-mail him at [wayne@idahofreedom.net](mailto:wayne@idahofreedom.net).

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### **Documentary tells story of 'Idaho's Forgotten War'**

Posted: Friday, Aug 06, 2010

By MIKE WELAND, Hagadone News Network

"Idaho's Forgotten War, A Lost Tale of Courage," an hour-long documentary on Amy Trice, the 1974 Kootenai War and what it's done for the tribe will air on Idaho Public Television at 9 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 10.

The film tells the story of how Trice, who grew up witnessing the suffering of the tribe and was compelled to action after a tribal elder froze to death in his unheated home, became chair of the tribal council and led the tribe to conduct a peaceful war that drew attention to the plight of her people, and fostered remarkable changes for the better.

"It all started when Simon Francis talked to my father, and asked him if his daughter, me, would be on the council," Amy said. "Dad told him it was up to me, and later on he asked me if I'd run."

She agreed, and was elected, but all her efforts to find justice and help for the tribe, which had never signed a treaty with the United States, fell on deaf ears, as the tribe, she was told, was “too small.”

She went up the hierarchy in the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and gained nothing. She and a delegation traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with Idaho’s congressional delegation, which include Sen. James McClure and Rep. Steve Symms, who listened, but offered no help.

“So I came back and said, ‘Let’s start a war,’ as a joke, but then it got serious,” she said.

Concerned about public reaction, she encouraged the tribe’s elders and others who feared repercussions to leave, but only a handful took the opportunity, with the vast majority of the tribe standing together. Indians from other tribes came to lend their support, noted Indian activist Dennis Means offered to come, but Trice insisted on no guns, no drugs.

“It was a war of understanding, a call for attention to how the people of the tribe were living,” Amy said.

It was the last declaration of war against the United States made by a Native American Tribe, and one of few won by the Indians. In the wake of the war, things began to slowly improve for the Tribe — grants were made available, they were granted 12.5 acres of trust land on the Kootenai River on which to build the mission.

“We got a lot of things accomplished,” she said. “Everything slowly started coming together. We got the housing, the hatchery, the clinic and the hotel. We’re slowly getting our land back.”

The film was directed by award-winning Idaho film maker, poet and activist Sonya Rosario.

“I wanted to get the story out a long time ago,” Rosario said. “It shows we can do something. This documentary will inspire smaller tribes to remain resilient in seeking federal recognition for their people, and viewers to believe in a better way of life.”

While Amy saw initial drafts of the film, she has yet to see the final cut, which was finished last year, and said she’s looking forward to watching it next Tuesday.

“I’m really looking forward to it,” she said. “As a little girl, I never thought I’d grow up to do something so big.”

Beset by tuberculosis as a child, and having gone through more than two years of blindness, she often wondered if she’d grow up at all, she said.

“I guess God had a purpose for me.”

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## Boise, Idaho – BPD Urges Citizens to Watch PBS Documentary on Domestic Violence

By admin • Aug 3rd, 2010 • Category: ID

A BPD detective who’s seen the documentary says if people watch the story, “it can help save lives.”

Boise, August 2, 2010 – Boise Police urge citizens to view or record a PBS documentary that tells a chilling tale of domestic violence, specifically a story of family violence that went unreported until it led to homicide.

Boise Police join the producers of the documentary who hope “Telling Amy’s Story” can help bring the community together to talk about and prevent domestic violence.



"Telling Amy's Story": airs on IdahoPTV in Boise, Idaho Falls and Twin Falls tomorrow, Tuesday, August 3rd at 9:00 p.m., and again on IdahoPTV HD Friday, August 6th at 8:00 p.m. Please check listings for IdahoPTV channels.

"As a detective that specializes in domestic violence, it is frustrating to know how many cases go unreported." said Detective Matt Brechwald of the Boise Police Special Victims Unit. "Movies such as 'Telling Amy's Story' are very powerful for creating more awareness of this problem in our community and helping to identify what I refer to as "Invisible Victims" or those people who do not reach out to the police for help for many different reasons.

"When the community realizes how serious and wide spread this problem is, they begin to look for it and assist the police in stopping it. It is only when the police partner with the community on serious issues such as domestic violence that we have a chance of saving lives." said Det. Brechwald.

Boise Police work actively with community and other law enforcement partners to try and raise awareness, prevent and stop domestic violence that includes spouse, partner and child abuse. Those agencies include the Women's and Children's Alliance, the Idaho Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and FACES of Ada County.

"Our partner agencies do incredible work and we're happy to work with them. But it comes down to individuals in our community, neighbors, co-workers, teachers, even reaching out to victims themselves to let people know that we're all here to help. But first, we need to know about it." said Det. Brechwald.

TO REPORT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Boise area residents can call the WCA 24-hour domestic violence hotline at (208) 343-7025, or call the Boise Police Special Victims Unit directly at 570-6241.

Along with Boise area resources, "Telling Amy's Story" promotes the National Domestic Violence Hotline, [www.ndvh.org](http://www.ndvh.org), or 1-800-799-7233.

The web site <http://telling.psu.edu/> also includes the video trailer for the documentary, links to discussion groups and other resources designed to educate and prevent domestic violence.



**Commentary: Growing our own**

By Michael Boss, Dolan Media Newswires

July 30, 2010

BOISE, ID -- "The way we grow and eat food tells us everything about who we are."  
-- Mary Rohlfig, Morning Owl Farm

As a topic of conversation, food has generally occupied the categories of entertainment and do-it-yourself. But in case you haven't noticed, more recent conversations about food have taken on an entirely different tenor, focusing not so much on what and where we eat, but on where what we eat originates - and how it gets to our plates.

While there has been a lot of discussion on the subject of "organic" over the years, the increasing interest has been over sustainability and proximity - or as the Boise Co-op ads on Idaho Public Television proclaim, "here's to someday not having to call it organic." Welcome, my friends, to the domain of the "locavore."

If you have any doubt that the subject of food is entering the Treasure Valley consciousness in new ways, here are some factoids worth pondering:

\* Idaho Public Television's recent airing of "Eating Local", produced by IPTV's Thanh Tan, proved to be one of its most watched Outdoor Idaho episodes, and was followed by a Dialogue segment with reporter Marcia Franklin on "Local Food" and a recent City Club forum featuring some of the same panelists.

\* The number of farmers' markets in Idaho now exceeds 50, and new local markets continue to "germinate". In just the last month alone, SE Boise has seen local markets open in Surprise Valley and Bown Crossing.

\* A growing number of Treasure Valley families are purchasing food directly from local producers through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms and ranches and at local markets. On average, weekly attendance at the Capital City Public Market currently numbers over 15,000.

\* More and more local restaurants are touting local sources on their menus, ranging from grass-fed beef to seasonally available fruits and vegetables...and even alligator.

\* Local organizations such as Sustainable Connections of Idaho and the Treasure Valley Food coalition, as well as the Idaho Department of Agriculture's Idaho Preferred program, are actively building relationships between consumers and producers through restaurants, retailers, and school cafeterias, to increase the percentage of locally available foods in the daily diet of Idahoans.

If you're tempted to think that the "locavore movement" is just the latest yuppie preoccupation, you're ignoring the fact that what is driving the interest in locally grown food is less about foodie fetishes than it is about the convergence of a number of factors - factors that extend well beyond the obvious difference in taste between a hot house tomato picked prematurely and shipped a thousand miles and one picked ripe from the vine in a farm 20 miles and a market day away from where it was purchased. Our taste buds hardly need any explanation of the obvious advantages of the latter versus the more familiar former. Other compelling factors, however, include food security, health, and the vitality of our Treasure Valley economy.

In a recent presentation hosted by the Treasure Valley Food Coalition, and featuring economist Ken Meter from the Crossroads Research Center, a powerful contrast was drawn between Idaho's food shed circa 1950 compared to the present. Some five decades ago our state boasted a far more diverse agricultural community comprising over 40,000 farms for what was then a population of 550,000. Of the total acres under cultivation, potatoes even then represented the largest crop at 144,000, but Idaho also had 30 poultry processing plants and 19 flourmills as well as thousands of acres devoted to fruits and vegetables.

Today, by contrast, the Gem State has barely 25,000 farms and has taken on the characteristics of an ag monoculture with 355,000 acres of farm land devoted to cultivating potatoes, while other crops from green beans to tomatoes have shrunk. As an example, in 1950 there were more than 200 farms that grew strawberries in the Treasure Valley. Today, that number is eight. Idaho now has only a single poultry processing plant and a one flourmill.

With a transportation system that has improved vastly over the past 50 years, why should this matter? One reason, says the Treasure Valley Food Coalition and local food proponents such as farmer Janie Burns and restaurateur Dave Krick, is that we are less "food secure" than we were 50 years ago. With more than 95 percent of the food Idahoans consume coming from outside our state, and an average fossil fuel input of 10 calories necessary to produce a calorie of food versus, a 1-to-2 input/output ratio in 1950, our food supply is much more vulnerable to the increased costs of oil - and most of us would agree that fossil fuel prices will continue to rise. The question is how steeply and over what period of time - a matter of when, not if.

While our increasingly centralized and industrialized models for food production have led to a dramatic lowering of food costs (in 1950 Americans spent an average of 22 percent of their income on food compared to less than 10 percent today), the health costs of consuming more heavily processed and caloric foods characteristic of today's American diet have offset these economic gains. Today, one in twelve Idahoans suffers from diabetes, at an annual cost of treatment pegged at \$399 million. To quote Dave Krick, "Our food system has been fantastic at delivering more calories for the dollar, but we have to get better at delivering more nutrition per dollar."

Issues of food security and health aside, there is another very compelling argument for "growing our own", as recently presented by economist Ken Meter, who has used US Department of Agriculture Data to profile the food economies of some 50 regions in 22 states. In his recent address to an audience at a Treasure Valley Food Coalition event, Meter pointed out that state and local governments currently spend \$50 billion a year nationwide to subsidize economic develop. From Meter's point of view, local food systems could be a more cost-effective and sustainable engine for building wealth, health, connection, and food capacity. "Our current food system fails on all four," he noted. With less than 4 percent of Idaho farms selling directly to consumers, and \$1.7 billion of Idahoans' annual food expenditure of \$1.8 billion going out of state, even a 15 percent increase in the purchase of local food would put \$165 million back into our economy - with no subsidies from local government.

As a grass roots movement, the "locavore express" (to borrow from the name of an annual event hosted by Idaho Preferred) can pick up steam with just a few changes in consumer food habits, according to the Treasure Valley Food Coalition. Among these changes are:

- \* Supporting restaurants that buy and serve local food.
- \* Joining a community supported agriculture (CSA) program.
- \* Reading labels: if your grandmother wouldn't recognize the ingredient, don't buy the product.
- \* Adding one locally grown food to your meals.
- \* Shopping at a farmers' market.

While embracing some economic behaviors require an act of asceticism, the good news about the steps listed above is that they also happen to taste good. And while these changes will, in the short term, likely increase the average consumers' food budget, it's high time we recognized that the cost of cheap food, like the cost of cheap credit, is not only unsustainable...it's just plain unhealthy.

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### **Idaho politics: Out of political necessity, Otter touts budget cuts**

Submitted by Kevin Richert on Thu, 07/29/2010 - 10:21am.

It's one thing to say state government cut spending and eliminated jobs out of necessity. As the argument goes, when tax collections dropped, state government was forced to make sacrifices.

But it's quite another thing to say the cuts actually made state government leaner and better.

That's what Gov. Butch Otter said Wednesday, offering a sneak preview of the final three months of his re-election bid. It's a risky sales pitch. I'm sure some displaced and overworked state employees — and confused and underserved consumers of state services — who will eagerly beg to differ.

Here's how Otter described these cuts to the Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce: "Yes, those have been tough, but they've also given us a discipline in changing our culture, which we need to sustain. ... We need more time in order to institutionalize those changes."

I call this going with what you've got — such as it is.

The harsh fact of the matter is, Otter doesn't have a whole lot else to sell, as he runs for a second term on Nov. 2. He doesn't have much of a list of accomplishments, even after working four years with a politically kindred, Republican-dominated Legislature. He succeeded in cutting public school spending — a historically deep \$128.5 million slash in 2010-11. He failed, over 117 days, to convince the 2009 Legislature to raise gas taxes to repair roads — and will now have to go to the voters and justify his push for a tax increase amidst a global recession.

Consequently, Otter has to play the belt-tightening card, somewhat out of default. Bear in mind that a balanced state budget isn't a matter of choice, but a constitutional requirement. And bear in mind that, at least at the outset, Otter opted for across-the-board budget holdbacks, which don't reinvent government, but instead lop some staff and services off the top. Otter opened the 2010 session by targeting general fund budgets for a few smaller agencies — such as the Human Rights Commission, the Department of Parks and Recreation and Idaho Public Television — but this didn't exactly turn out to be a p.r. coup for the governor.

Otter can certainly argue that state government is leaner. By shedding 6.9 percent of its state jobs in the 12 months ending June 30, Idaho topped the nation. But will Medicaid patients and college students and parents agree that this leaner government is better?

And will voters support Idaho's ongoing, and troubling, pattern of spending: putting increased shared of the budget into prisons and Medicaid, at the expense of K-12 and higher education? That's how Democratic opponent Keith Allred reacted to Otter's remarks.

We'll see what voters think, come Nov. 2.

Wednesday's news cycle was dominated by Otter's abrupt backpedal on that most defining political issue: the Boise State University-University of Idaho football rivalry. Four hours after saying he would look into keeping the game, Otter issued a news release saying he had no interest in "micromanaging our universities' football programs."

Otter reminded me a little of a shrewd quarterback who threw the ball out of bounds to avoid a sack. That's not meant as a slight: This football rivalry is a 255-pound blitzing linebacker of an issue, promising to administer only pain to the politico foolhardy enough to stand in its path.

Otter can't sidestep the economy, though, or his four-year record on balancing the budget. It may have been buried under all the football talk, but on Wednesday, Otter offered a glimpse of how he will play the issue that could (and should) figure heavily in this campaign.

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Read more: [http://voices.idahostatesman.com/2010/07/29/krichert/idaho\\_politics\\_out\\_political\\_necessity\\_otter\\_touts\\_budget\\_cuts#ixzz0v7RHCywd](http://voices.idahostatesman.com/2010/07/29/krichert/idaho_politics_out_political_necessity_otter_touts_budget_cuts#ixzz0v7RHCywd)