



IDAHO EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND (IESDB) is now up and running. The eight board members have been appointed by the governor; all except Tom Luna are appointed to staggered three-year terms, so the current members will serve for 1-3 years: Teresa Fritsch (specialized/certified personnel), Ramona Lee (Director of Special Education), Laura Bondurant (parent of deaf/blind student), Steven Snow (citizen who is deaf), Michael Graham (citizen who is blind/visually impaired), Tom Luna (Superintendent of Public Instruction), Jeff Faulkner and Mark Falconer (members at-large.) A couple of board meetings have already taken place, and another is scheduled for September 25 at ISDB, from 8 am until 4 pm or so, just prior to Family Weekend. ISDB is hoping that the board members will be around for dinner that evening, giving parents from across the state a chance to meet them.

The IESDB board is currently asking parents for feedback on the question of whether ISDB should be relocated to the Treasure Valley. Weigh in on this issue via a link on the ISDB website, www.isdb.idaho.gov.

CAPTIONS ON THE INTERNET—WHERE ARE THEY? Technology is racing ahead, and legislation mandating accessibility is bound to lag behind. Current law requires all new television programming (with certain exceptions) to be closed captioned, and that distributors of previously captioned materials retain the captions. However, the law does not extend to materials distributed over the internet, and most internet videos are not captioned. It is both technically and economically feasible to caption internet materials. Legislation seeking to remedy this failed to pass Congress in 2008, but has been reintroduced in 2009. (It would not cover user-generated videos, such as those on YouTube.) The 21st Century Communication and Video Accessibility Act of 2009 was introduced by Representative Edward Markey (D-MA) this summer and has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Sign a petition at <http://www.coataccess.org/node/add/petition> to show your support, and let your Congressmen know about it, too. The internet has been a wonderful resource for people who are deaf or hard of hearing; let's keep it that way.

IMPROVING THE CLASSROOM LISTENING ENVIRONMENT There is also federal legislation addressing classroom acoustics in the works. The U.S. House Education and Labor Committee considered and passed H.R.3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009. Included in this bill is \$5 billion in funding for the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act (Section 345 of H.R.3221). The Green Schools Act would allow states and school districts to take measures designed to reduce or eliminate exposure to classroom noise and environmental noise pollution. The next step is the Senate.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Idaho Hands & Voices Parent Workshop and Family Picnic Saturday, September 19 in Boise. The workshop is at the Idaho Elks Rehabilitation Hospital in the Caribou Room on the 4th Floor, from 10:00 am until 11:30. Penny McKay, a licensed professional counselor, will present information on behavior management for children who are deaf or hard of hearing, including strategies, tips and expectations. Child care is available at no cost, and siblings are welcome. Spanish and sign language interpreters will be provided upon request (please call 853-4314 by September 11 if you wish to have interpreting services.) After the workshop, there will be a family picnic at noon at Memorial Park, 900 N 6th St, just a few blocks north of the Elks Hospital. Main dish and drinks will be provided; please bring a side dish or dessert to

share. You may attend either event or both, but please call Susie Jones at 853-4314 to RSVP, so that we can plan for the right number of people.

ISDB Family Weekend is September 25 and 26 at ISDB in Gooding. If you do not receive a registration packet soon, call Chris Allison at ISDB (208-934-4457) to request one. Currently there are workshops planned on topics such as assistive technology and keeping kids safe in the internet age. ISDB will also be providing transportation for families who wish to attend the ASL movie being aired at CSI in Twin Falls Saturday afternoon (see next paragraph for more information.) Idaho Hands & Voices will be there, too.

ASL Movie Event at the Fine Arts Auditorium at the College of Southern Idaho September 26. Two films will be shown, "The Legend of the Mountain Man" at 1:00 pm, and "Gerald" at 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$11 each and available only by advance purchase (deadline September 19) by contacting Janice Finch at spudguaa@gmail.com; net proceeds will benefit the Spud Chapter of the Gallaudet Alumni Association and the ISDB Foundation Scholarship Fund. For more information and a sneak preview, go to www.spudguaa.com/events.html. If you are planning to go to ISDB Family Weekend, ISDB will be providing transportation to "The Legend of the Mountain Man" but you must pay for your own tickets, either through Janice Finch, or by sending in a separate check with your registration so that ISDB can reserve the tickets for you.

Magic Valley Hands & Voices will have its annual pumpkin painting party on Halloween this year! We'll meet Saturday, October 31 from 1:30 to 3:30 pm at the Irwins' house in Jerome (76 West 100 North, watch for a postcard or call 324-7544 for directions.) Two pumpkin plants are gallantly producing fruit for your enjoyment; remember to dress kids in clothes that can stand a bit of permanent extra decoration.

Interpreted Theater Performances continue in the Treasure Valley:

- *Tuna Christmas*, Wednesday, September 23 at 7:30 pm (Idaho Shakespeare Festival)
- *Beauty and the Beast*, Saturday, October 24 at 1:30 pm (Music Theater of Idaho)
- *Annie*, Friday, December 11 at 7:30 pm (Music Theater of Idaho)

Music Theater of Idaho performances are at the Nampa Civic Center. Get tickets on line at www.mtionline.org or call 208 468-2385. Idaho Shakespeare Festival performances are at the Festival Amphitheater on Warm Springs Avenue in Boise. Get tickets on line at www.idahoshakespeare.org or call 208 336-9221. For the best view of the interpreters, be sure to mention that your party needs to sit in the Deaf/Hard of Hearing section. Assistive listening devices are also available at all performances.

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Hands & Voices & Social Networking

Hands & Voices (National) is now on Twitter.

Username: HandsandVoices; profile: <http://twitter.com/HandsandVoices>

If you have a Facebook account, you can become a "fan" of Hands & Voices.

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Do you have news of interest to other families? Have you read a useful book? Have you discovered a new trick for keeping hearing aids or CI processor in place? Has your kid done something utterly cute, funny or wonderful? Share it here! Send it to Lorna Irwin, 76 West 100 North, Jerome ID 83338 or niwri2@msn.com. The next "Wavelengths" will come out in early November.