New local production spotlights area female veterans

The story of female veterans is as varied as the story of females in all walks of life. The new local production VETERANS OF AMERICA—OUR HEROES IN UNIFORM: THEY SERVED TOO highlights many of the challenges and successes of area women in uniform. Examples include a young mother who now serves in the Army Reserve, a young couple who are both veterans, a female general and a nurse who is in the reserves.

The show also speaks about Sharon Lane, a Canton resident who was the first female casualty of the Vietnam War. In addition, it touches on female veterans’ high rate of homelessness and how Summit County Executive Ilean Shapiro has gotten involved in helping homeless female veterans. The production premiered on PBS Western Reserve on Wednesday, Nov. 11, as part of our programming for Veterans Day.

MASTERPIECE celebrates its 50th year!

Jan. 10, 2021, marks the 50th anniversary of MASTERPIECE, the iconic PBS drama series that sparked America’s infatuation with British television. The series recently unveiled its slate of the next unforgettable dramas.

Elizabeth Is Missing (Sunday, Jan. 3, at 9 PM)
Glenda Jackson won a coveted BAFTA award for her role as a woman in the grip of dementia, searching for her missing friend. The Guardian (London) described her performance as “compelling, unsentimental and altogether magnificent.”

All Creatures Great and Small (Sunday, Jan. 10, at 9 PM)
This seven-part adaptation of James Herriot’s beloved books about a rural veterinarian drew record-breaking U.K. audience numbers. In addition to the esteemed ensemble cast, the series features Dame Diana Rigg in one of her last appearances.

Miss Scarlet & The Duke (Sunday, Jan. 17, at 8 PM)
Kate Phillips stars in a six-part mystery as the headstrong, first-ever female detective in Victorian London. Stuart Martin plays her childhood friend, professional colleague and potential love interest.

The Long Song (Sunday, Jan. 31, at 10 PM)
This three-part miniseries is based on Andrea Levy’s award-winning novel about the end of slavery in Jamaica. It follows July (Tamara Lawrance), an indomitable young slave who works on a sugarcane plantation with her detestable mistress, Caroline Mortimer (Hayley Atwell).

Additional productions planned for 2021 include Atlantic Crossing, an epic drama based on the World War II relationship of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Norwegian Crown Princess Martha; Talking Heads, based on Alan Bennett’s classic dramatic monologues; and Us, a drama tinged with humor and heartbreak.

The 50th season closes out in the fall with the return of some of MASTERPIECE’s most popular mysteries. Anticipated titles include Baptiste, Season 2; Grantchester, Season 6; Van der Valk, Season 2; and Unforgotten, Season 4.
Community Outreach

Station contributes to new internet safety content

PBS Western Reserve and other Ohio EdTech agencies have created a six-part video series, “Keeping Kids Safe and Healthy Online,” which can be found on Ohio EdTechs’ YouTube channel.

Ready To Learn funding to continue

Funding and virtual training modules will continue for Ohio Ready To Learn, which offers training to area family child-care providers. Seventeen training sessions will be delivered virtually in November and December.

IT/Engineering

WNEO tower gets upgrade

In September, our WNEO tower in Salem, Ohio, got an obstruction lighting upgrade. The old incandescent red beacons that flashed at night and the xenon strobes that flashed during the day were upgraded to a single LED system.

The new system is capable of flashing white during the day and red at night, and will save thousands in electricity and maintenance costs.

Staff News

Trina Cutter participates in discussion

On Nov. 5, President and CEO Trina Cutter participated in a CEO Meet & Eat Roundtable session for Leadership Stark County’s YoungPro virtual conference.

Randy Lipscomb joins staff

Randy Lipscomb joined us in October as corporate support account executive. An Akron native and resident of N. Canton, he has more than 20 years of sales experience. Welcome, Randy!

Jeff Good presents at conference

In October, Jeff Good, chief education technology officer, presented on technology services for K-12 students to Connectivity Champions.

Fred Barrett selected for state committee

Fred Barrett, emerging media manager, was selected to serve on the Ohio Association of Broadcasters’ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

Stephanie Virgallito is new social media intern

Stephanie Virgallito, of Austintown, joined us in September as a social media intern. She is a full-time graduate student and teaching assistant at Youngstown State University, pursuing a Master of Arts degree in professional communication.

Educational Services

Child-care providers receive training

October training sessions for family child-care providers, funded by a Corporation for Public Broadcasting grant, focused on PBS Kids resources.

Upcoming sessions will focus on PBS Kids ScratchJr, a creative storytelling app for ages 5-8.

Financial literacy resources offered to educators

In November, PBS Western Reserve, in collaboration with the Economics Center at the University of Cincinnati, will offer a seminar on SmartPath, a free platform for use by Grade 1-8 educators.

New sign greets visitors

Signage for our headquarters in Kent, which was installed in late October, offers a crisp, clean reflection of our new brand identity.

Community Outreach

Station provides services to Akron Roundtable

PBS Western Reserve recently provided live-stream coverage for Akron Roundtable. The presentations featured Chris Horne, publisher of The Devil Strip, in August and Secretary of State Frank LaRose in September.

Fred Barrett, Gary Manke and Anthony Dennis provided station support for the presentations, which were broadcast on Microsoft Teams. Audio from the presentations also aired on WKSU-FM and Akron Roundtable’s social media platforms.

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