Football greats celebrated in new PBS Western Reserve productions

PBS Western Reserve shone a spotlight on the achievements of Black football players with two productions that aired in August. September air dates for both are presented below, plus they are available for viewing on demand at PBSWesternReserve.org.

Black College Football Hall of Fame: Journey to Canton
Saturday, Sept. 4, at 6 PM
Repeats Friday, Sept. 10, at 10:30 PM and Saturday, Sept. 11, at 3:30 AM

“Headed to Canton” is often used synonymously when referring to an NFL player who will one day be enshrined into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, located in Canton, Ohio. The museum celebrates the greatest players, coaches and contributors to the professional game.

Now, more than 50 years later, heading to Canton has expanded to include collegiate football. In 2019, the Black College Football Hall of Fame was officially welcomed to the campus of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Along with it came a game and celebration of the historically Black college and university brand of football.

BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME: JOURNEY TO CANTON tells the story of the formation of Black college football, the contributions that players from historically Black colleges and universities have made to the NFL, the founding of its hall of fame and why the hall is in the unexpected location of Canton.

Lines Broken: The Story of Marion Motley
Saturday, Sept. 4, at 6:30 PM

In 1946, Marion Motley was one of four African American men to break pro football’s color barrier when he joined the Cleveland Browns. Those men’s efforts to play a physically brutal game in the face of societal racism and state-sanctioned Jim Crow laws forged a path for Black athletes in the highest echelons of professional sports, including baseball’s Jackie Robinson.

Motley was recognized as one of the gridiron’s greatest players when he was enshrined into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1968 in his hometown of Canton, Ohio. However, five decades after being immortalized there, the memory of Motley and his great accomplishments on and off the field are beginning to fade in the city where he first made his name. LINES BROKEN tells Motley’s story of adversity, personal tragedy and triumphs using rarely heard archival interviews and new interviews with historians, friends and descendants.
Podcast offers financial advice

In partnership with the United Way of Greater Stark County, PBS Western Reserve created “Platform to Prosperity,” a podcast that features United Way volunteers who share lessons and perspectives about their financial journeys.

The nine-episode podcast features genuine, real-world conversations designed to help listeners make informed decisions about where their money goes. Each episode is approximately 20 minutes in length and can be found at PBSWesternReserve.org/podcasts/platform-to-prosperity.

Community Outreach

Be My Neighbor Day features visit from Daniel Tiger

PBS Western Reserve brought Daniel Tiger to Summit Lake in Akron on Saturday, June 12. This was the first in-person event held at Summit Lake in over a year, and community partners and participants were all eager to attend.

At the station’s booth, children could choose a page from a “Thank You, Community Helper” coloring book that they received, color it and add it to a collection to be mailed to the designated community helper. Jeff Good, chief education technology officer, read one of the Daniel Tiger books to children while they were coloring. Approximately 130 parents and children attended the event.

Station participates in Move to Include initiative

PBS Western Reserve is participating in a national initiative that uses the power of public media to promote awareness and inclusion of people with disabilities. With special programs, advanced social media and online resources, Move to Include challenges the community to learn more about the abilities of people with disabilities.

To learn more, visit PBSWesternReserve.org/movetoinclude.
Early learning initiatives completed in June

Ohio Ready to Learn funded the delivery of 42 two-hour trainings held virtually through Zoom, with over 400 family child care providers receiving the training sessions.

United Way of the Mahoning Valley funded an expansion of our early learning services and by the end of June, over 300 family child providers and more than 400 children attended virtual and in-person training and/or events related to the project. Both projects have received funding for FY22.

American Graduate: Path to the Future virtual event held

On June 8, the national launch event online for AMERICAN GRADUATE: PATH TO THE FUTURE was held. This multiyear initiative sponsored by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and WNET strives to help students explore and prepare for high-demand careers, including the 30 million open middle-skill jobs that require a one-year occupational certificate or two-year associate degree. Following the national event, PBS Western Reserve facilitated a virtual discussion among local experts regarding its relevance locally. Panelists were from the Educational Service Center of Eastern Ohio.

Cyberchase—Green It Up inspires nature appreciation

PBS Western Reserve participated in a collaborative project for children ages 6-8 designed to inspire an appreciation for nature, build STEM skills and empower them to be environmental stewards in their communities, just like the characters on the popular PBS Kids show CYBERCHASE.

Called Cyberchase—Green It Up, the virtual event was created by WNET and Project Learning Tree. PBS Western Reserve received a grant to support the project, presented to 608 students over a two-week period. Explorations included pollinators, fruit and veggie container gardens and deforestation. Project resources are available at PBSWesternReserve.org/events/cyberchase-green-it-up.

2021 Ohio Google Summit held virtually

On May 6-7, PBS Western Reserve supported the 2021 Ohio Google Summit conducted by ITIP Ohio, which serves Ohio educators. Twenty prerecorded virtual sessions were presented free of charge to more than 1,300 registrants. Sessions featured best practices for developing and delivering content to students both in person and virtually.

Station concludes webinar series about digital storytelling

PBS Western Reserve’s podcast series “The Power of Digital Storytelling Series” finished in June, with 148 total participants virtually attending the series’ six sessions. An online course taking a “deeper dive” into each of the session topics will be offered, with registration beginning in August. Sessions and presentation materials can be found at PBSWesternReserve.org/digital-storytelling.
**Staff News**

**Randy Lipscomb selected for Leadership Stark County program**

Randy Lipscomb, account executive, has been chosen for the 35th class of the Leadership Stark County Signature Program.

Leadership Stark County engages and educates Stark County’s community leaders through a range of programs tailored to meet business and community needs. The purpose of the 10-month program is to develop a community of engaged leaders committed to positively impacting our region.

**Jeff Good joins learning community**

Jeff Good, chief education technology officer, is now a member of a networked learning community formed to help schools develop high-quality remote, hybrid and blended education delivery models. The community is called RemotEDx Networked Learning Community of Practice and is funded by a grant from the Ohio Department of Education.

**Stephanie Virgallito is new sorority chapter advisor**

Stephanie Virgallito, social media audience / community builder, was selected by the chapter advisor of the Gamma Sigma chapter of Alpha Xi Delta at Thiel College to serve as the alumnae relations director. She is an alumna of the Theta Upsilon chapter of Alpha Xi Delta at Youngstown State University.

**Retiree Pat Weed returns to lend a hand**

Pat Weed, who worked at PBS Western Reserve from the late 1980s to 2010, returned to the office in August to help out as a volunteer.

Prior to and following her employment here, she has volunteered in a variety of capacities. In addition, she and husband David are longtime members of the station.

Thank you for all you do for PBS Western Reserve, Pat!

**Judi Peterhansen receives extensive HR training**

Judi Peterhansen, accounting assistant, participated in 17 webinars and e-learning classes between April and July, all of which offered information about human resources policies and procedures.

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