New local productions spotlight veterans

In recognition of Veterans Day in November, Western Reserve Public Media presented related programming throughout the month, including two new local productions.

VETERANS OF AMERICA—OUR HEROES IN UNIFORM is a three-part series produced by Ron Ponder of Canton. The first installment, OUT OF OUR BRAINS, NOT OUT OF OUR MINDS, premiered on Saturday, Nov. 9. It talks about some of the research and treatments of veterans and the general public of today. It features a physician who suffered PTSD, recovered from many of the symptoms and then altered her career; an equestrian farm dedicated to helping veterans with PTSD bond with horses; and a chiropractor who offers free treatment for veterans who have PTSD.

MEMOIRS OF WWII is a multipart short-film series that is the work of Joshua and Heather Scott and Christian McLean, based in Northeast Ohio. It is dedicated to preserving the history of and memories of those who served in the war.

Through the personal accounts of real-life World War II veterans, the series honors their sacrifice. It also offers younger generations an understanding of what it was like to live through the war and what lessons can be learned from it.

Both local series are available for free viewing on demand at WesternReservePublicMedia.org.
Outreach & Special Events

Station hosts Be a Caring Neighbor Day appearances

Western Reserve Public Media participated in two area family events thanks to a Be My Neighbor Day grant from PNC Bank and Fred Rogers Foundation:

- On Sept. 15, Daniel Tiger and Sid the Science Kid greeted participants at OH WOW! Silly Science Sunday in Youngstown. Children received school supply pouches and Daniel Tiger books, and more than 3,000 parents and children attended the event.

- On Sept. 21, Daniel Tiger came to the Community Giveback Day at the Boys and Girls Club of the Western Reserve in Akron. More than 400 parents and children in attended the new event.

At both events, children signed and colored thank-you posters that were then given to first responders.

Multimedia project is award finalist

Western Reserve Public Media is pleased to announce that our project “Teaching with Tech” has been nominated for an award. National Educational Telecommunications Association chose the project as a finalist for a 2019 NETA award in the category Education—Celebrating Teaching and Learning. Winners will be announced on Jan. 26 at the organization’s national conference in Arlington, Va.

Buddy goes to the park!

Western Reserve PBS brought Buddy from DINOSAUR TRAIN to Idlewild & SoakZone amusement park on Aug. 5. Buddy greeted children at the Hillside Theater in the park. DINOSAUR TRAIN airs Monday-Friday at noon on Western Reserve PBS.

Back-to-school event features beloved PBS characters

On Aug. 17, through the support of Summit County and Executive Irene Shapiro, Western Reserve Public Media brought Katerina Kitty Kat and Word Girl to the 10th Annual Summit for Kids, held at the John S. Knight Center. More than 3,000 families attended the event, which included free school supplies and activity books.
Educational Services

NETILO meetings held

Western Reserve Public Media is the home of the Northeast Ohio chapter of Technology Integration Leaders of Ohio (NETILO). On Sept. 27, the group visited the Makerspace at Hudson High School. At its next meeting in December, NETILO participants will learn about educational technology equipment.

Ready to Learn training to begin

Our Ready to Learn staff members have been trained on the updated Ohio coursework and will begin training providers at child-care facilities in obtaining Step Up to Quality status.

The project is funded by Ohio Educational Television Stations through a grant from Ohio Jobs and Family Services, and is facilitated by Western Reserve Public Media’s early learning consultant, Pam Oviatt. It received increased funding for additional workshops and the production of early-learning videos focused on preparing children for school.

Digital reality training offered

Educators benefitted from the professional development presentation Getting Started with Augmented and Virtual Reality, which was offered at Western Reserve Public Media on Oct. 23. Christine Danhoff from Genoa Local Schools facilitated the training.

Board of Directors News

New members welcomed to board of directors

Western Reserve Public Media welcomes Shannon Tirone and Joyce Mistovich to its board of directors. Tirone is associate vice president of university relations at Youngstown State University, and Mistovich is director of education at The Butler Institute of American Art.

Tirone has been with Youngstown State University since 1996 in various capacities. She is a member of Boardman Rotary and most recently became a yearlong mentor through the United Way program. She is a graduate of Youngstown State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in organizational communication with an emphasis in marketing.

Mistovich is a lifelong resident of Boardman and is a graduate of Boardman Schools, where she taught visual arts for 30 years. She also served as supervisor of Boardman Center Middle School’s student-run television program and as program director of the Boardman Schools Television Network (BSTN) for 23 years. Mistovich graduated from Youngstown State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in art and education and Master of Science degree in curriculum. She did postgraduate work at Kent State University, Ashland University and Walsh University.

Grow with Google event hosted

Western Reserve Public Media hosted a Grow with Google livestream focusing on Google and Constant Contact. The live event focused on ways to reach customers, just in time for the holiday shopping rush.

The Grow with Google initiative focuses on providing support to job seekers, educators, small businesses and community members through online and live training opportunities.
Jeff Good attends conferences; serves as media advisor

Director of Education

Jeff Good attended the following conferences, where he also staffed a Western Reserve Public Media booth:

- Stark/Portage Area Computer Consortium (SPARCC) Technology Conference in August
- Connect and Collaborate Conference in Columbus in September
- Ohio School Boards Capital Conference in Columbus in November

Good will be media advisor for a second year for the project “What’s So Cool About Manufacturing.” This West Central Pennsylvania student video contest involves 7th graders exploring manufacturing careers and producing profile videos for local companies. Good will be working with nine student teams.

Keith Nedved attends conferences

In October, Keith Nedved, educational services coordinator, attended INFOhio’s first regional in-person training event, which offered fee-free professional development to educational staff working with students in grades Pre-K–5.

Nedved also attended the Ohio Technology Summit, Makerspace Edition, at Otterbein University in October.

Educational Services staff members represent organization at conferences

At both the Nordonia City Schools Professional Development Day in September and the Learning Innovations Conference at Kent State University in November, Educational Services employees staffed a Western Reserve Public Media booth. In addition, Keith Nedved gave presentations about available educational resources.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube

Follow us for program updates, announcements, fun links and more on our Facebook fan page and at Twitter.com/WR_PBS. You can watch our local programming on our YouTube channel, too!