



press release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PBS 45 & 49 introduces new quarterly series, Northeast Ohio Times

KENT, Ohio — July 22, 2005 — **Northeast Ohio Times**, a new PBS 45 & 49 production that features local topics of interest, debuts Sunday, July 24 at 8 p.m., and repeats on Saturday, July 30 at 11 p.m. The first installment of the quarterly series features three stories: the importance of the artistic community to the city of Canton, the joy of involvement in Akron's All-American Soap Box Derby and an outstanding example of regional cooperation in the Mahoning Valley.

The first segment, **The Arts in Stark County**, is hosted by Joe Halter, chairman of the board of Arts in Stark, a nonprofit promotional organization for Stark County arts organizations. He introduces leaders of various arts organizations who talk about area attractions, educational programs and collaborations. Organizations featured include the Canton Museum of Art, Multi-Development Services of Stark County, the Canton Symphony Orchestra, 2nd April Galerie, the Massillon Museum, the Rainbow Repertory Company and The Players Guild Theatre.

The Modernization of Akron's Soap Box Derby takes a historic look at the All-American Soap Box Derby. Jody Miller, editor of *Bath Country Journal* and a **NewsNight Akron** panelist, interviews Jeff Iula, the derby's general manager, about the resurgence in popularity of the event proclaimed as "the greatest amateur racing event in the world."

In the third segment, **Operation S.O.A.R.**, veteran Mahoning Valley broadcast journalist Gerry Ricciutti leads a discussion about an impressive partnership established to prevent the closure of the 910th Airlift Wing of the U.S. Air Force Reserve at the Youngstown/Warren Regional Airport. Operation S.O.A.R. (an acronym for "Save Our Airbase Reservists") established a new model of bipartisan, private sector and public sector cooperation that crossed not only county but state boundaries. Ricciutti leads a panel discussion with U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan; Brig. Gen. Michael Gjede, USAF (ret.); and Reid Dulberger, executive vice president of the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber — all of whom are executive committee members of Operation S.O.A.R. The panelists discuss their belief that similar partnerships can help attract new business to the region.

Don Freeman, PBS 45 & 49 director of programming, is the executive producer of **Northeast Ohio Times**. "This quarterly series will highlight the incomparable people, places and changes that make life in Northeast Ohio special," he said.

About PBS 45 & 49

PBS 45 & 49 is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation. A trusted community resource, PBS 45 & 49 uses the power of non-commercial television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire.

**PBS
45 & 49**

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