



press release

Contact: Diane Steinert
steinert@wneo.org
330-677-4549

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PBS 45 & 49's NewsNight Akron panel to choose 2006 Akron Newsmaker of the Year

KENT, Ohio — Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2007 — Tune in to PBS 45 & 49's **NewsNight Akron** on Friday, Jan. 12 at 9 p.m. to find out who will win the 2006 Akron Newsmaker of the Year award. The award recognizes the greater Akron individual whose work has had the most significant news impact during the past year. The winner will be chosen by the **NewsNight Akron** panelists following what has typically been a spirited debate for their respective choices.

Nominees for the 2006 award are as follows:

- David Black, whose company Black Press purchased the Akron Beacon Journal in June
- Carol Cartwright, newly retired president of Kent State University, who was nominated in recognition of her 15 years of leadership at the university
- LeBron James, Cleveland Cavaliers superstar, nominated because of his charitable foundation work and his commitment to helping his hometown
- Robert Keegan, head of Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, who led the organization through a difficult year that included a three-month strike
- Summit County Children Services Board, whose leaders generated both negative and positive news stories throughout the year
- Sylvester Small, Akron Public Schools superintendent, who helped lead Akron Public School's levy passage and development of rebuilt or renovated schools in the district
- Paul Testa and Joel Testa of Testa Builders, downtown developers whose Northside Lofts in downtown Akron added a new dimension to Akron's urban renewal efforts

Host Vincent Duffy, director of programming and operations at WKSU/89.7 FM, will be joined by panelists Ed Esposito, news director at WAKR/WONE/WQMX; Steve Hoffman, editorial writer at the *Akron Beacon Journal*; and Jody Miller, owner and publisher of *Bath Country Journal*.

PBS 45 & 49

Northeastern
Educational Television of
Ohio, Inc.

1750 Campus
Center Drive

P. O. Box 5191

Kent, Ohio

44240-5191

Phone
330.677.4549

Fax
330.678.0688

E-mail
questions@wneo.org

Web Site
www.pbs4549.org

“PBS 45 & 49’s Newsmaker of the Year segment gives our panel of journalists an opportunity to recognize the innovative and the infamous in our community,” said Don Freeman, executive producer of the series. “We’re not bestowing a formal or official award to a single recipient; we’re really interested in looking at the players who made a difference — good or bad — in 2006.”

NewsNight Akron is in its ninth season on PBS 45 & 49. It airs on Fridays at 9 p.m. and repeats on Saturdays at 5 a.m.

About NewsNight Akron

NewsNight Akron airs every Friday night at 9 p.m. on PBS 45 & 49 and offers spontaneous, lively, in-depth discussions about issues that affect the lives of people in greater Akron. Hosted by Vincent Duffy, director of programming and operations at 89.7/WKSU-FM, **NewsNight Akron** features a roundtable discussion with a panel of local journalists that covers both breaking news stories on topics such as education, the community and local business, as well as ongoing subjects including elections and major news stories. Serving as regular panelists on the show are Steve Hoffman, political writer at the *Akron Beacon Journal*; Mizell Stewart, managing editor of the *Akron Beacon Journal*; Jody Miller, editor and publisher of *Bath Country Journal*; and Ed Esposito, Joe Jastzremski and Larry States, all of whom are members of the Rubber City Radio Group news staff.

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 noncommercial television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. For more information about PBS 45 & 49, visit www.pbs4549.org or call 1-800-854-4549.

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