



**PBS
45 & 49**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PBS 45 & 49's NewsNight Akron panel to choose 2007 Akron Newsmaker of the Year

KENT, Ohio — Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2008 — Tune in to PBS 45 & 49's **NewsNight Akron** on Friday, Jan. 4 at 9 p.m. to find out who won the 2007 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 was chosen by these **NewsNight Akron** panelists: host Eric Mansfield of WKYC-TV, Ed Esposito of Rubber City Radio Group, Steve Hoffman of the Akron Beacon Journal and Jody Miller of Bath Country Journal. The panelists met at North Side Grill in Akron on Thursday, Dec. 27 to discuss the nominations and choose the winner.

Nominees for the 2007 award are as follows:

- **Kevin Coughlin**, Ohio State senator, 27th district, for challenging the status quo of the Republican party in Summit County
- **Jessie Marie Davis**, Canton resident who allegedly was murdered by her boyfriend, a Canton police officer
- **Joe Finley**, who challenged incumbent Don Plusquellic in the Democratic primary for Akron mayor
- **Terry Gordon, M.D.**, a cardiologist at Northeast Ohio Cardiovascular Specialists and Akron General Medical Center, who wants every school in America to have an automated external defibrillator
- **LeBron James**, star forward of the Cleveland Cavaliers, for getting the team so close to the national championship
- **Robert Keegan**, chairman of the board, CEO and president of The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, for keeping the corporation in town
- **Don Plusquellic**, mayor of Akron, for mobilizing the city to keep Goodyear in town
- **Luis Proenza**, president of The University of Akron, for vast changes and advances taking place on the university's campus
- **Russell Pry**, Summit County executive, for coming into office and "taking the bull by the horns"
- **John Saros**, executive director of Summit County Children Services, for getting the levy passed and for bringing peace and order back to the organization
- **Ted Strickland**, recognized for his higher education initiatives, particularly his pledge to freeze college tuition

NewsNight Akron is in its 10th 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 Eric Mansfield, Akron-Canton news anchor for WKYC-TV3, **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*; 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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