

QUARTERLY PROGRAM TOPIC REPORT

WNEO/WEAO

July–September 2025

1. Government and Law
2. Arts and Culture
3. Nature and the Environment
4. Journalism and Local Media
5. Health and Wellness

PBS Western Reserve is committed to presenting outstanding programs that teach, illuminate and inspire viewers across Northeast Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. Following is a non-exhaustive review of community issues addressed during the third quarter of 2025. Unless otherwise indicated, all programs aired on PBS Western Reserve (WNEO 45.1 / WEO 49.1).

Government and Law

Forum 360, From Swallowing Nickles to the US Supreme Court .5 hour

Monday, Sept. 1, at 5:30 PM

In an interview with host Sally Henning, Akron attorney Edward L. Gilbert shares his life journey, from growing up in foster care to winning the recent 9-0 Supreme Court case, *Ames v. Ohio Department of Youth Services*. The case brought an end to background circumstance requirements that set a higher bar when members of a majority group sued for discrimination under federal law.

Forum 360, Don Plusquellic – Former Mayor, Akron .5 hour

Monday, Sept. 1, at 5 PM

Former Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic reflects on his decades of city leadership and the future of Akron. He discusses his greatest achievements and regrets, his toughest decisions, his hopes for the polymer industry and more.

Akron Roundtable, Senator Jon Husted 1 hour

Thursday, Aug. 21, at 6 PM on Fusion (WNEO 45.2 / WEO 49.2)

Senator Jon Husted in a moderated conversation with Dr. J. Cherie Strachan, Director, Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at The University of Akron. Jon Husted began serving Ohioans in the U.S. Senate in January 2025. For more than two decades, the people of Ohio have trusted him to fight for their jobs, values, and families.

Arts and Culture

A Capitol Fourth 2025 1.5 hours

Friday, July 4, at 8 PM

Celebrates our nation's 249th birthday with a live broadcast from the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol — honoring our freedoms and independence, and those who defend them. The all-star event features patriotic and musical performances across genres, including pop, country, R&B, classical and Broadway, with the National Symphony Orchestra under the direction of premier pops conductor Jack Everly. The celebration will be capped off with a display of fireworks worthy of America's biggest birthday party.

Around Akron with Blue Green, September 2025 .5 hour

Tuesday, Sept. 23, at 8 PM

Blue visits Phrase Bar & Grill, a new vegan restaurant downtown. Next, he makes a trip to This Gallery on 4th in Barberton where he meets artist and co-owner Nikki Bartel and learns about the gallery's haunted history. Plus, a sit down with local musician Chris Butler.

The World According to Polka, Polka Train .5 hour

Friday, Sept. 26, at 8:30 PM

The Chardon Polka Band performs train songs and visits railroads of all sizes. Bob Buzecan plays accordion on a diesel locomotive. Johnny Miller plays historic folk tunes.

Studio C Sessions, Tracey Thomas / Palmyra .5 hour

Saturday, July 5, at 10:30 PM

Live music performances by Tracey Thomas and Palmyra in the heart of Akron. Produced in collaboration with local radio station, The Summit FM.

Studio C Sessions, Leif Vollebekk / Travis

.5 hour

Saturday, July 12, at 10:30 PM

Live music performances by Leif Vollebekk and Travis in the heart of Akron. Produced in collaboration with local radio station, The Summit FM.

Studio C Sessions, Anya Marina / Matt Pond PA

.5 hour

Saturday, July 19, at 10:30 PM

Live performances by Anya Marina / Matt Pond PA in the heart of Akron. Produced in collaboration with local radio station, The Summit FM.

Studio C Sessions, Jill Sobule / Carbon Leaf

.5 hour

Saturday, July 26, at 10:30 PM

Live performances by Jill Sobule and Carbon Leaf in the heart of Akron. Produced in collaboration with local radio station, The Summit FM.

Voces: Omara

1 hour

Sunday, Sept. 28, at 1 PM

Meet the beloved Cuban singer Omara Portuondo, who has thrilled audiences for over half a century, from the stages of Havana's legendary nightclubs to her worldwide fame as part of the Grammy-winning Buena Vista Social Club.

Nature and the Environment

By Nature's Design: Exploring Our Native Wildlife, Native & Invasive Species of the Wetlands

.5 hour

Friday, Aug. 22, at 8:30 PM

Explore wetlands in this close look at the flora and fauna in and around the ecosystem. With the help of more local experts, learn about the essential role of native species, the destructive force of invasive species, and the importance of protecting biodiversity in our wetlands.

PBS News Hour, Episode 6

1 hour

***Segment Length, 6 minutes**

Tuesday, July 8, at 7 PM

After the deadly flooding in Texas, there are questions about the weather forecasts and warning systems meant to save lives. Deema Zein spoke with meteorologist Matthew Cappucci of MyRadar.com about the origins of the storm and why it dumped so much water on the region.

PBS News Hour, Episode 47

1 hour

***Segment Length, 8 minutes**

Wednesday, Sept. 3, at 7 PM

Few countries in the world are considered more vulnerable to the impact of rising sea levels and climate change than Bangladesh, a nation of 175 million people squeezed into a landmass the size of Iowa. In partnership with the Pulitzer Center, Fred de Sam Lazaro traveled to Bangladesh to look at efforts to build resilience in the face of the escalating consequences.

Big Cats 24/7, The Rogue Boys

1 hour

Wednesday, Sept. 10, at 8 PM

Old friends, new threats — the team returns to the Okavango Delta as big cats face new life events.

Big Cats 24/7, Under Siege **1 hour**

Wednesday, Sept. 10, at 9 PM

With dominant males gone, intruder lions close in on the Xudum pride's cubs.

Big Cats 24/7, A Pride Divided **1 hour**

Wednesday, Sept. 17, at 8 PM

Under attack from intruder male lions, the mums with young cubs must find the rest of the pride.

Big Cats 24/7, Reunion **1 hour**

Wednesday, Sept. 24, at 8 PM

Xudum lionesses struggle to feed their cubs as Lediba and Pobe fight to protect their young.

Great Lakes Now, Fading Stars and River Bugs **.5 hour**

Sunday, Sept. 28, at 11 AM

Take a look at citizen science initiatives to chart changes to the night sky, counting insect larvae to measure the health of waterways, and more.

Journalism and Media

Around Akron with Blue Green, September 2025 **.5 hour**

Tuesday, Sept. 23, at 8 PM

Blue visits Phrase Bar & Grill, a new vegan restaurant downtown. Next, he makes a trip to This Gallery on 4th in Barberton where he meets artist and co-owner Nikki Bartel and learns about the gallery's haunted history. Plus, a sit down with local musician Chris Butler.

Forum 360, Bringing the News **.5 hour**

Monday, July 7, at 5:30 PM

Signal Akron is an independent, community-led nonprofit newsroom founded in 2023. Editor-in-Chief Susan Zake discusses how the outlet got its start as part of the Signal Ohio network, one of the largest nonprofit news startups in the country which aims to fill gaps in news deserts. Zake also shares how the outlet sources and produces news in alignment with its mission.

PBS News Hour, Episode 12 **1 hour**

***Segment Length, 6 minutes**

Wednesday, July 16, at 7 PM

Among the programs targeted for cuts in the White House rescissions package is the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. It's the independent nonprofit created by Congress to distribute federal funds to more than 1,500 noncommercial TV and radio stations. Tom Abbott of public radio station KFSK in Petersburg, Alaska, joined William Brangham to discuss what's at stake for rural stations.

Washington Week with The Atlantic, Episode 9 **.5 hour**

Friday, Aug. 29, at 8 PM

He has been described as "the last of a generation of gold-standard political reporters." On a special edition of Washington Week with The Atlantic, Jeffrey Goldberg speaks with The Washington Post's Dan Balz, who is stepping down as a full-time political correspondent with the paper after 47 years on the job.

Health and Wellness

PBS News Weekend, Episode 2 **.5 hour**

***Segment Length, 7 minutes**

Sunday, July 6, at 6:00 PM

Every year, nearly 31 million people in the U.S. are bitten by a tick. Tick-related illnesses like Lyme disease are on the rise, a trend experts attribute to climate change, human expansion into forested areas and overpopulations of deer. Ali Rogin speaks with pediatric infectious diseases specialist Dr. Andrew Handel about how to best avoid these tiny insects.

Forum 360, Uncertainty Equals Opportunity

.5 hour

Monday, Aug. 4, at 5:30 PM

Dr. Teri Lash-Ritter is the president of Cleveland Clinic's South Submarket, which includes Akron General, Lodi, Medina, Mercy and Union hospitals; three health and wellness centers; and many family health centers and outpatient facilities. In an interview with host Leslie Ungar, Lash-Ritter shares her career journey from medical school to C-suite.

PBS News Hour, Episode 26

1 hour

***Segment Length, 7 minutes**

Tuesday, Aug. 5, at 7 PM

The U.S. fertility rate hit another record low last year, with families having fewer children and a growing number of women opting out of motherhood altogether. A new large-scale study might offer some clarity. It shows U.S. mothers have seen a stark drop in their mental health. Stephanie Sy reports.

The Healing

1 hour

Sunday, Aug. 3, at 1 PM

Explore an Australian equine welfare program that heals traumatized ex-racehorses.