

APTV
Birmingham, AL
PBS Quarterly Program Topic Report
July 1, 2019 – September 30, 2019

AMERICAN HISTORY/BIOGRAPHY

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 7/1/2019 6:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:10:56

In the 1992 U.S. presidential election, Texas billionaire Ross Perot earned 19 percent of the popular vote, making him the most successful third-party candidate since Teddy Roosevelt in 1912. Perot died Tuesday at age 89 from leukemia. To remember him, Judy Woodruff talks to NewsHour co-founder Jim Lehrer about Perot's authenticity, passion for ideas and desire to use his own resources for good.

Series Title: Family Pictures USA
Episode Title: North Carolina
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 8/12/2019 8:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: Documentary
Segment Length: 00:56:46

Discover how this historically rural state built on tobacco and textiles is rapidly changing. Entrepreneurs find a warm welcome in Durham, Native Americans come home to ancestral lands, and families separated by race and class work toward healing.

Series Title: Mine Wars: American Experience; The
Length: 120 minutes
Airdate: 9/3/2019 7:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: Documentary
Segment Length: 02:00:00

Go inside the bitter battle to unionize coal miners at the dawn of the 20th century. The struggle over the power that fueled America led to the largest armed insurrection since the Civil War, and turned parts of West Virginia into a bloody war zone.

CULTURE

Series Title: Amanpour and Company
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 7/2/2019 11:00:00 PM
Service: PBS-PLUS
Format: Interview/Discussion/Review
Segment Length: 00:56:46

Christiane Amanpour speaks with Pedro Noguera and Nate Bowling about the recent teacher strikes across America; and actress Gillian Anderson about her wide-spanning career. Walter Isaacson sits down with Bruce Springsteen's wing man, actor and musician "Little Steven" Van Zandt.

Series Title: POV
Episode Title: The Distant Barking of Dogs
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 8/5/2019 9:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: Documentary
Segment Length: 00:56:46

The Distant Barking of Dogs follows the life of 10-year-old Ukrainian boy Oleg over a year, witnessing the gradual erosion of his innocence beneath the pressures of the on-going war in Eastern Ukraine. Having no other place to go, Oleg and his grandmother Alexandra stay and watch as others leave the village, showing just how crucial—and fragile—family is for survival.

Series Title: POV
Episode Title: Farmsteaders
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 9/4/2019 12:00:00 AM
Service: PBS
Format: Documentary
Segment Length: 00:56:46

Clear-eyed and intimate, Farmsteaders follows Nick Nolan and his young family on a journey to resurrect his late grandfather's dairy farm as agriculture moves toward large-scale farming. A study of place and persistence, Farmsteaders points an honest and tender lens at everyday life in rural America, offering an unexpected voice for a forsaken people: those who grow the food that sustains us.

ENVIRONMENT/NATURE/NATURAL DISASTERS

Series Title: Great Yellowstone Thaw
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 7/5/2019 10:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: Documentary
Segment Length: 00:56:46

A Yellowstone winter is a brutal one. With temperatures that plunge down to minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit the wildlife has to find strategies to survive. Some animals leave, some hide and some tough it out. Grizzlies hunker down and hibernate, but this winter the temperatures have been erratic and some bears are emerging early. Finding food is a huge challenge, but our camera crews follow one male who's lucky enough to hit the jackpot and find a bison that's been released from its icy tomb down in the valley. But he has to hang onto it whilst the scavengers hassle him. Great Gray owls suffer as their prey hides under an icy layer of snow that proves almost impossible to break through. Will this lack of food affect their mating and ability to raise a family in the Spring? Cameraman Jeff Hogan is following them to find out. And top wolf biologist Doug Smith explains why he's concerned about the number one predator. With a winter that's had less snow than usual it's favored the prey and the wolves are starving hungry. Host Kirk Johnson who's the Sant Director of the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, visits this unique wilderness to unravel the story of this particular winter in Yellowstone.

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 8/6/2019 6:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:04:16

Matthew Burtner is a composer and "eco-acoustician," weaving sounds he finds in the Alaskan tundra into his musical compositions. With climate change headlining the news, he hopes artists documenting the glacial melting might awaken their audiences - and contribute to discussions about solutions. Valerie Kern of Alaska Public Media joined Burtner on a recent sound collection trip.

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 9/2/2019 6:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:07:52

Hurricane Dorian struck the Bahamas as a Category 5 storm at first, causing major destruction and flooding. Now Florida residents wait with trepidation to see if Dorian will make landfall there, where many are still recovering, both physically and emotionally, from the wreckage of previous storms. John Yang joins Judy Woodruff with the latest.

Family/Marriage

Series Title: Frontline
Episode Title: American Patriot
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 7/2/2019 9:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: Documentary
Segment Length: 01:00:00

Examine the violent battle between a ranching family in the West and the federal government. See how a fight over land became deadly, invigorated a wider right-wing anti-government movement and continues to challenge prosecutors and law enforcement.

Series Title: POV
Episode Title: The Return
Length: 90 minutes
Airdate: 8/28/2019 12:00:00 AM
Service: PBS
Format: Documentary
Segment Length: 01:30:00

In 2012, California amended its "Three Strikes" law, shortening the sentences of thousands of "lifers." See this unprecedented reform through the eyes of freed prisoners, disrupted families and attorneys and judges wrestling with an untested law.

Series Title: Country Music
Episode Title: Hard Times (1933 -1945)
Length: 120 minutes
Airdate: 9/16/2019 8:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: Documentary
Segment Length: 02:00:00

During the Great Depression and World War II, country music thrives and reaches bigger audiences. Gene Autry sets off a craze for singing cowboys, Bob Wills adapts jazz's Big Band sound to create Texas Swing and Grand Ole Opry singer Roy Acuff becomes a national star. Despite a divorce between two of its members, the Carter Family carries on, turning out songs that will become classics. Nashville slowly becomes Music City and the center of the growing country music industry.

Health/Health Care

Series Title: Year in Space; A
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 7/17/2019 7:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: Documentary
Segment Length: 01:00:00

Follow astronaut Scott Kelly's record-breaking 12-month mission on the International Space Station, from launch to landing, as NASA charts the effects of long-duration spaceflight by comparing him to his identical twin on Earth, astronaut Mark Kelly.

Series Title: Firing Line with Margaret Hoover
Length: 30 minutes
Airdate: 8/10/2019 12:00:00 AM
Service: PBS
Format: Interview/Discussion/Review
Segment Length: 00:26:47

Rep. Pramila Jayapal, co-sponsor of the House Medicare for All Act, makes the case for a universal government-run health insurance program. She explains why she supports eliminating private insurance and what that would mean for the 150 million+ people with employer-based coverage. She also talks about the cost of Medicare for All and whether wait times for doctors' visits would change.

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 9/6/2019 6:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:04:55

Following several mysterious deaths linked to vaping, the federal government is now warning Americans not to use e-cigarettes. The Centers for Disease Control also said there are 450 reported cases of lung illnesses tied to vaping, in more than 30 states. William Brangham talks to Allison Aubrey of NPR about what is known, and what isn't, about the health risks of vaping.

Minorities/Civil Rights

Series Title: To the Contrary with Bonnie Erbe
Length: 30 minutes
Airdate: 7/19/2019 12:00:00 AM
Service: PBS-PLUS
Format: Interview/Discussion/Review
Segment Length: 00:25:40

A crowd at a Trump rally chanted 'send her back,' in reference to Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN), inspired by the president's own tweets which have been denounced by Congress. With the rise of E-cigarettes, marketing tactics have led people to believe that vaping devices, like JUUL, are a safe alternative to cigarettes. PANEL: Patricia Sosa, Ann Stone, Donna Edwards, Liz Matory

Series Title: To the Contrary with Bonnie Erbe
Length: 30 minutes
Airdate: 8/2/2019 12:00:00 AM
Service: PBS-PLUS
Format: Interview/Discussion/Review
Segment Length: 00:25:47

Competence: A new study reveals that women are finally perceived as competent as men.
2nd Primary Debates: Did any candidate put a dent in Joe Biden's lead?
Adultification: Black girls tend to be treated as if they were older than they actually are.

Series Title: Finding Your Roots
Episode Title: Southern Roots
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 9/10/2019 7:00:00 AM
Service: PBS
Format: Other
Segment Length: 00:56:46

Three guests of disparate Southern backgrounds, DJ and producer Questlove, talk show host Dr. Phil and journalist Charlayne Hunter-Gault, find astonishing tales of bondage in their family histories.

Science/Technology

Series Title: Big Pacific
Episode Title: Mysterious
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 7/5/2019 8:00:00 AM
Service: PBS
Format: Documentary
Segment Length: 00:56:46

Plunge into the Pacific with researchers and cinematographers and see the ocean's rare and dazzling creatures in a way never before seen on television. Filmed in cinematic 4K, the program examines an ocean that covers a third of the Earth's surface.

Series Title: Ancient Skies
Episode Title: Finding the Center
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 8/2/2019 12:00:00 AM
Service: PBS
Format: Documentary
Segment Length: 00:56:46

Follow the efforts to give the Earth a shape and a place. From flat Earth legends to Galileo's telescope, track major changes in scientific understanding.

Series Title: NOVA
Episode Title: Rise of the Superstorms
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 9/4/2019 8:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: Documentary
Segment Length: 00:56:46

During the 2017 hurricane season, the US receives a record three Category 4 hurricane landfalls with Harvey, Irma, and Maria. Harvey, with its record-breaking rainfall and flooding, is the second-most costly storm in US history, with an estimated \$125 billion of damage done. Irma broke records with prolonged intensity, causing communities to rethink just how vulnerable we are to hurricanes, due to sea level rise. And Maria's rapid intensification and sheer strength leaves us facing the reality of a new era of climate refugees. Can scientists determine whether these monster storms are a harbinger of more powerful hurricanes to come? With the next hurricane season just around the corner, are we prepared for the damage that might ensue given warming global waters? Houston, Jacksonville, Florida's Keys, Puerto Rico and many of the islands in the Caribbean are changed forever.

Alabama Public Television
Quarterly Programs/Issues Report
July - September 2019

Capitol Journal

7/12/19, 8p, 1 hour Issues discussed: Government, crime, economic

We reported on former Alabama Attorney General Charles Graddick being appointed as the new Director of the state Bureau of Pardons and Paroles. We were joined by former Auburn head football coach and U-S Senate candidate Tommy Tuberville, who talked with us about his campaign. We were also joined by state Senator Chris Elliott of Fairhope, who discussed a toll controversy surrounding a big Mobile bridge and Bayway project and his legislation that could help lower the price tag.

7/19/19, 8p, 1 hour Issues discussed: Government, health, crime

We reported on a possible agreement to delay the state's new abortion ban for a year. We also reported on controversy surrounding Secretary of State John Merrill saying that American media has become too focused on 'homosexual activities.' We were joined by Sen. Cam Ward of Alabaster, who discussed the prospect of a special legislative session on the state's prison problems. And we were also joined by Alabama Democratic Party Chair Nancy Worley, who discussed a new deadline to hold a new state chairman's election.

7/26/19, 8p, 1 hour Issues discussed: Government, crime, economic

Corrections Commissioner Jeff Dunn joined us to discuss being part of the governor's new prison study group. It's mission it to tackle the state's serious prison problems. Rep. Mike Holmes of Wetumpka was also with us to discuss a bill he's pre-filed that would revamp the state's tax structure. We also reported on a legislative committee holding a hearing on the controversial Mobile toll bridge proposal.

8/2/19, 8p, 1 hour Issues discussed: Government, economic, crime

We reported on Gov. Ivey calling a meeting of the state's Road and Bridge Toll Authority to discuss the Mobile toll bridge controversy. Senate Minority Leader Bobby Singleton of Greensboro joined us to discuss prisons and this year's failed lottery plan. Sen. Jim McClendon of Springville was also with us to talk about whether he'll bring another lottery bill next year. McClendon also discuss redistricting, the upcoming census and the impact of a recent Supreme Court ruling on gerrymandering.

Capitol Journal continued

8/9/19, 8p, 1 hour Issues discussed: Government, health, economic, crime, youth

We reported on preparations for the first meeting of the state's new Medical Cannabis Study Commission. We were joined by Rep. Phillip Pettus of Killen, who discussed his new law barring excessive left-lane driving on interstates. We were also joined by Rep. Matt Fridy of Montevallo, who talked about his new law that aims to strengthen free speech rights on public college and university campuses.

8/16/19, 8p, 1 hour Issues discussed: Government, health, economic

Sen. Tim Melson of Florence joined us to talk about the first meeting of the new Medical Cannabis Study Commission. Sen. Jabo Waggoner of Vestavia Hills was also with us to discuss the gas tax hike that was set to take effect in two weeks, as well as the renewed gun control debate. We also reported on Congresswoman Martha Roby's first public comments since announcing her retirement.

8/23/19, 8p, 1 hour Issues discussed: Government, economic, crime

We were joined by Gov. Kay Ivey, who talked with us about the Mobile toll controversy, the upcoming implementation of the first phase of a state gas tax increase to benefit infrastructure needs, and whether or not she will call a special legislative session to address our prison problems. We were also joined by Rep. Matt Simpson of Daphne, who discussed the mounting turmoil over the proposed Mobile toll bridge and his concerns for the project moving forward.

8/30/19, 8p, 1 hour, Issues discussed: Government, race, economic, crime

We reported on Gov. Kay Ivey apologizing for wearing a black face during a college skit 52 years ago. We also reported on the governor declaring a proposed Mobile toll bridge project 'dead.' We were joined by Sen. Greg Albritton of Atmore, who discussed the toll controversy and his new marriage law. We were also joined by Sen. Clyde Chambliss of Prattville, who talked about the gas tax increase he sponsored taking effect. And Rep. Will Dismukes of Prattville joined us to discuss his new law that denies parental rights to those convicted of rape or incest.

9/6/19, 8p, 1 hour, Issues discussed: Government, race, crime, military, economic

We reported on Gov. Kay Ivey saying she wouldn't resign over her 'blackface' admission. We were joined by U.S. Sen. Doug Jones, who discussed gun control in the wake of more mass shootings. We were also joined by Congressman Robert Aderholt, who talked about the Pentagon diverting billions from military projects to the southern border wall. And Sen. Andrew Jones of Centre was with us to discuss his push to pick up for his district some of the money left over from the 'dead' Mobile toll bridge project.

Capitol Journal continued

9/13/19, 8p, 1 hour Issues discussed: Government, economic

We were joined by Sen. Vivian Davis Figures of Mobile, who discussed her news-making appointment to a key committee that will award local infrastructure grants under the state's new gas tax increase. We were also joined by State Auditor Jim Zeigler, who talked with us about his efforts to, as he put it, 'keep the Mobile toll bridge project dead.' And we were joined by Representative Chris Pringle of Mobile, who talked about his hope that a 'non-toll' Mobile bridge solution can be found.

9/20/19, 8p, 1 hour Issues discussed: Government, health, race, environment

We reported on Governor Kay Ivey's cancer diagnosis and her doctor's prediction of a full recovery. We were joined by Alabama Democratic Party Chair Nancy Worley, who told us that she did not plan to step down amid the controversy in her party. We were also joined by Alabama Republican Party Chair Terry Lathan, who discussed the GOP's efforts to reclaim Democrat Doug Jones' U-S Senate seat next year. And Chris Darden with the National Weather Service in Birmingham was with us to look back on the controversy surrounding Alabama, Hurricane Dorian and President Trump.

9/27/19, 8p, 1 hour Issues discussed: Government, health, crime, education

We had Alabama lawmaker reaction to the announcement of an impeachment inquiry surrounding President Donald Trump. We reported on Gov. Kay Ivey resuming a normal schedule after her cancer diagnosis. Attorney General Steve Marshall joined us to discuss all of the changes at the Bureau of Pardons and Paroles. Lyn Head was with us to talk about stepping down as Pardons and Paroles chair. And Rep. Terri Collins of Decatur joined us to discuss the legal challenge of the abortion ban that she sponsored.

Spotlight on Education

7/25/19, 8p, 1 hour Issued discussed: Government, education, youth

Alabama Community College System Chancellor Jimmy Baker joined us to discuss workforce education advancements and a huge federal grant to help with manufacturing training. We also talked with Senate education budget chairman Arthur Orr of Decatur about this year's record school spending plan and about a bill he got passed this year to expand high school job apprenticeship opportunities. And we were also joined by Alabama Board of Education member Jackie Zeigler of Mobile, who discussed her opposition to a proposed constitutional amendment that would move the state from an elected board to an appointed school commission.

Spotlight on Agriculture

8/5/19, 9p, 1 hour Issues discussed: Health, education, environment

Featuring "Harvest for Health," a cancer intervention program initiated by UAB that involves the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, particularly its Alabama Master Gardeners Program; Auburn University; and a network of 1,700 gardeners. We explore the cancer-fighting effects of increased activity, lower stress levels and increased consumption of fresh vegetables.

Alabama State Council on the Arts 2019 Awards

8/26/19, 9p, 1 hour Issues discussed: Culture, government, education

The Alabama State Council on the Arts' "Celebration of the Arts" Awards shine a spotlight on individuals who have made important contributions to the state's cultural landscape. This year's eight winners were Martha Reeves, Jim and Elmore Inscoe, Frye Gaillard, Kyes Stevens, Yvonne Wells, Sudha Raghuram and Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle.