

WGTH-AM PROBLEMS & PROGRAMS LIST

FOURTH QUARTER 2013

OCTOBER - DECEMBER

DRUG ABUSE EPIDEMIC & RELATED CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Tazewell County has suffered drug abuse problems in epidemic proportions for many years. Although an active and aggressive drug task force has worked extremely hard to combat drug dealing and abuse within the county, the abuse and related criminal activity continue to have a huge negative impact on the county and its citizens.

Program: Broadcast of an interview following a press conference called by Tazewell County's Commonwealth's Attorney (in part, on behalf of the Tazewell County Drug Task Force) regarding indictments passed down by a recent Grand Jury

Date: October 3, 2013 (aired at 3:30 p.m.)

Guest: Dennis Lee, Commonwealth's Attorney for Tazewell County

The Tazewell County Drug Task Force currently consists of:

Tazewell County Commonwealth's Attorney, Dennis Lee

Tazewell County's Sheriff, Brian Heatt

The police chiefs of the four towns within Tazewell County:

David Mills - Cedar Bluff

Frank Dorton - Richlands

Dewitt Cooper - Tazewell

Harry Cundiff - Bluefield

Representing the Virginia State Police - Jason Robinson

The diligent, hard work of the Tazewell County Drug Task Force has netted some significant results for their efforts. Drug busts that involve large numbers of individuals and, most importantly, drug dealers have become commonplace - given the amount of time it takes to build a case against an offender. Tazewell County Commonwealth's Attorney, Dennis Lee, gave a brief history of the task force itself. Lee stated that the task force was organized in the 1980's, when Bill Osborne was sheriff. He said it is probably the only multi-agency task force contained within one county in the state of Virginia.

According to Dennis Lee, a September 10, 2013, Grand Jury passed down indictments to 54 individuals on 170 counts. The charges included possession and/or distribution of methamphetamines, heroin, marijuana, prescription drugs, and synthetics. Lee reported that prescription drugs are still the "drugs of choice" in Tazewell County. Unfortunately, they are also responsible for 60% of all drug deaths in the United States.

Some of the recent developments in local drug problems that Lee highlighted included Trooper Robinson's report regarding the discovery of a "meth lab" three weeks prior. (For all the drug problems there are in Tazewell County, meth labs are seldom found locally.) Roxycodone was designated as a new favorite, now that oxycodone and Opana are now designed for time release only. Heroin was also seldom seen in the past; however, Lee said it has been coming into the county more frequently. According to Lee, the heroin coming from Afghanistan is especially potent and cheap.

The majority of the criminal investigations in this particular round up came from the Richlands area this time. Lee explained that it usually takes three to six months to build a case against the less significant dealers. He encouraged listeners to be sure to call in tips, if they notice anything suspicious. He said that he knows people sometimes feel that their tips are not being acted upon. If a long time passes with seemingly no results, they should not be discouraged. One case took a year and a half to build, but resulted in a twenty year prison sentence.

Lee explained that sentencing guidelines are, in his opinion, incredibly lax. Meanwhile, addicts are committing crimes against individuals, businesses, churches, etc., and their property in the county. Lee stated, as he has in the past, that he would like to see more rehabilitation efforts to go along with enforcement of the laws. He said he supports the local programs, such as Celebrate Recovery, that are aimed at helping people break their addictions.

ALLEGATIONS OF EMBEZZLEMENT IN A LOCAL SCHOOL AFFECT STUDENTS, TEACHERS, TAXPAYERS, & OTHERS

The news has featured numerous accounts of embezzlement in various locations in Virginia and throughout the United States. Based upon the increase in number of reports, there seems to be a rise in that particular type of criminal activity. Schools, churches, and civic organizations appear to be frequent targets.

The reason for this may be that people working for these groups would normally be considered trustworthy, and it may be assumed that they have a high regard for those they serve. When the integrity of an organization and/or a position within the organization is violated, it usually comes as a shock to the victims. When a local school is involved, the victims include students, teachers, parents, taxpayers, and others within the community.

Program: Broadcast of an interview following a press conference called by Tazewell County's Commonwealth's Attorney regarding recent Grand Jury indictments

Date: October 3, 2013 (aired at 3:30 p.m.)

Guest: Dennis Lee, Tazewell County Commonwealth's Attorney

On October 2, 2013, Dennis Lee announced that a Grand Jury had indicted Kathy Hicks on numerous counts of embezzlement and money laundering that is alleged to have occurred over a period of time and involved in excess of \$300,000. Hicks had been a secretary and bookkeeper at Tazewell Middle School, when the crimes were alleged to have occurred. The Grand Jury had been held over in order to consider the indictments for this case.

Lee reported that the attorney for the Tazewell County School Board, Alan McGraw, called the Virginia State Police regarding the suspicion of embezzlements on May 19, 2013. On May 20, 2013, Trooper Miles acted on the report and called in Special Agent Josh Stitt from the Wytheville Detachment of the Virginia State Police to begin the investigation. From May to October, Stitt accumulated stacks of financial records and a huge stack of subpoenas.

According to Dennis Lee, each embezzlement charge carries a sentence of up to 20 years. He described money laundering as transferring ill-gotten monies for which each count can carry a sentence of up to 40 years.

In the past, Tazewell County could have been called a trusting county. Breaches in trust in recent years, including this incident, have eroded the faith and confidence that citizens, in previous times, would have readily placed in employees and volunteers. Embezzlement from public schools involves stealing from students, teachers, parents, and other taxpayers. Dennis Lee and his office plan to take an active role in prosecuting this and other such crimes and will punish anyone that is convicted.

MAKING CHRISTIAN HISTORY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

Christians, both as individuals and as the Body of Christ, have made a tremendous impact on the world... usually for the good. Christian history is an important segment of United States and world history. Recognizing the contributions that Christians have made, the suffering many have endured, and the significance of the events of Christendom on the entire world are necessary to understand history, in general, and the key role that faith plays in all of it. The ability to access accurate Christian historical information and accounts of deliberation regarding various issues is key to the availability and integrity of research.

Program: Interview regarding the Christian History Institute and
Christian History magazine (pre-recorded)

Date: October 19, 2013 (aired at 4:30 p.m.)

Guest: Michael Austin, Christian commentator and spokesperson
for Christian History Institute

In an interview with Christian commentator and spokesperson for Christian History Institute, Michael Austin, the listeners were encouraged to use all available resources to learn about Christian history and its impact on society, cultural development, world history, etc. Austin introduced the listeners to Christian History Institute, *Christian History* magazine, and the related websites. He explained the institute operates on a donation basis only; yet it offers tremendous resources, including many downloadable files. Created for personal, home, school, or church use, the website and magazine can be used as research materials, study guides, and personal reading material. The information is designed for quick and easy access; however, there is an affinity for accuracy by those that set up the website and edit the magazine. The materials are particularly useful to homeschoolers, Bible students, and pastors. Although there is a certain topic that the current information highlights, the archives include a vast selection of topics for study.

DISPERSING INFORMATION ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL BAND FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES

The Richlands High School Blue Tornado Marching Band has been a great source of pride for the Richlands community. The band has garnered numerous trophies and awards and has earned the prestigious "Honor

Band" title almost every year for more than a decade. The cost is considerable for uniforms, music, band camp, travel expenses, special props and instruments, etc. The band and band boosters must work very hard to earn the monies necessary to cover band expenses.

Although our community loves to support its young people, they need to be made aware of the needs and the fund-raising activities. The members of the community that do not have school-age children have a difficult time knowing what is going on with the youth and, in particular, the band. Communications media, especially radio, is a great outlet for such information... especially during football broadcasts.

Program: Halftime interview with the president of the Richlands High School Band Boosters

Date: October 25, 2013

Guest: Lorie Lowe, president of the Richlands Band Boosters

During a halftime interview at a Richlands Blue Tornado Football Game, Lorie Lowe informed listeners of several ways they could help the Richlands High School Blue Tornado Marching Band in their efforts to raise money to cover their expenses. Lorie was this year's president of the Richlands Band Boosters. The football broadcasts have lots of listeners; therefore, the word got out to many people, most of whom, are very excited about the young people in the community.

After a brief update on the accomplishments of this year's band in competition and the seniors the band would be losing, Lorie told of several specific fund-raisers that were in progress or were upcoming. The annual fruit sales and other opportunities were mentioned and contact information was shared.

ELECTION RETURNS

Virginia had several hotly contested and very close races during the gubernatorial election. Additional local elections also sparked interest. Many listeners were very concerned about the outcome of this year's governor's race, because one of the candidates appeared to have sided with President Obama in his "War on Coal." With coal mining being the most important industry in this region, concern was warranted.

Program: Precinct-by-precinct election returns for state and local elections

Date: November 5, 2013 (after the polls closed until late that night)

November 6, 2013 (during the 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. news)

Ron Brown gathered and reported election returns for each precinct in Tazewell County. The gubernatorial race, state delegate's race, and other local elections were reported. Many listeners appreciated not having to search for the information themselves or having to wait until morning to find out the results. As it happened, the Virginia Attorney General's race was so close that unofficial results were not available until the next day. Even after that, the margin was so incredibly narrow that a recount was ordered.

REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS

No amount of recognition given to veterans on or near Veterans Day can even come close to repaying them for the sacrifices they have made for our country and, for most of us, in our stead. Recognition, however, is due... no matter how meager it may seem.

Program: Infobits regarding local Veterans Day celebrations

Dates: November 5 - 10, 2013 (aired throughout the day)

Guests: Jan White, Mayor of Richlands

Linda Singleton, Cedar Bluff Business & Professional Assn.

Lynn Quillen, Town of Tazewell

The towns of Richlands, Cedar Bluff, and Tazewell all featured nice parades/programs for the area veterans that were able to attend. Mayor Jan White gave specifics about the celebration that took place in Richlands. Linda Singleton spoke for Cedar Bluff, and Lynn Quillen gave details on Tazewell's events. Each spokesperson warmly invited veterans from across the area to their event.

DISPERSING INFORMATION REGARDING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Times of gathering for fellowship with friends and family are important. Traditions are established in many families by attending parades and other local events. Towns and businesses spend a considerable amount of money on such celebratory events. During the holiday season, there is so much going on that it is necessary to let the listeners know specifics of each individual event of which we are aware. Dispersing that information and generating excitement is a large responsibility for a radio station.

Program: Infobits regarding various Christmas parades (aired throughout the day)

Dates/Guests: November 20 - 25, 2013 - C. H. Wallace, Mayor of Honaker
November 26 - 30, 2013 - Jan White, Mayor of Richlands
November 26 - 30, 2013 - LeAnn Billings, Town of Tazewell

The dates, times, and other specific information about the three local Christmas parades is important to disperse to the listeners that are able to attend. C. H. Wallace of Honaker, Jan White of Richlands, and LeAnn Billings from the Town of Tazewell shared crucial information about their specific parades.

Program: Infobits regarding "A Frontier Christmas" (aired throughout the day)

Dates: December 3 - 6, 2013

Guest: Charlotte Whitted, executive director of the Historic Crab Orchard Museum in Tazewell

With her special Southern charm and flair for radio invitations, Charlotte Whitted warmly welcomed individuals and families to the authentic pioneer celebration of "A Frontier Christmas." She explained the types of activities, locations, guest singers, etc., that attendees could expect to find. All this with a background of dulcimer music to heighten the authenticity and interest of the listeners.

Program/Date: Delayed broadcast of the live "Concert in the Square"
December 19, 2013 at 9 p.m.

Guests: The various Richlands Middle & High School choirs

Program/Dates: Infobits regarding the "Concert in the Square"
(aired throughout the day)

December 16 - 19, 2013

Guest: Linda Singleton, representing Singleton Funeral Service and the Town

The "Concert in the Square," in the Town of Cedar Bluff, is a marvelous way to join with family and friends and to participate in celebrating Christmas in song. Linda Singleton, of Singleton Funeral Service, spoke about the singing and used her warm, Southern-style, hospitable nature to invite folks to come and enjoy the start to the season.