

WGTH PROBLEMS & PROGRAMS LIST

FOURTH QUARTER 2011

OCTOBER - DECEMBER

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF LOCAL YOUTH

The recognition of hard work and much deserved honors received for outstanding performance by local youth is worth acknowledging. In fact, the recognition may encourage further accomplishments from those who have already put forth effort and inspire others to do likewise.

Program: The Pregame Show

Dates: October 7 and 14, 2011

Guest: Bruce Miller, Richlands High School Band Director

Allison Deel, student band director from Bluefield College

A constant source of pride in our community is our local high school marching band. Although down in numbers this year, the quality of the band was quite good for its size. In fact, there were some unusual features added to this year's performance, "Galactic Odysseys," that were worthy of note (pun intended).

There was a heavy emphasis on the upfront and stationary instrumentation. The most fascinating individual performance was the amazing drum solo that boosted the show phenomenally. Even more remarkable was that the performer was only a freshman. No doubt he is a prodigy. Jack Patton-Smith's talent will bless the band for years to come.

Every year, the band director from Richlands High School is our guest for a couple of pregame show segments. Mr. Bruce Miller introduced his student band director, Allison Deel, who gave a brief biographical sketch about herself. Mr. Miller talked about the wonderful talent, both past and present, that helped the Richlands High School Blue Tornado Marching Band and the symphony band earn prestigious honors for numerous consecutive years. Rigorous preseason marching band training (especially in the summer band camp), the band's competition schedule, this year's fundraisers, the exceptional parent and community support, and other noteworthy band news items were also discussed in the interviews.

LEARNING TO BE "GIVERS" AND NOT JUST "TAKERS"

"Entitlement" has become a keyword for a very unpleasant downward turn taken by many in our society. People of all ages, but mostly today's youth, have fallen into a trap... reasoning that they are "entitled" to all kinds of things simply because they exist. Society, supposedly, owes them a comfortable life without effort and without responsibility on their part.

It is a good thing when high school students learn to give back to a community that has exercised great generosity toward them. To help people that are truly in need of material goods is a sign of mature citizenship and munificence.

When high school students rally around a project entitled, "Richlands Gives Back," it can give them a real sense of social responsibility to be able to return a blessing to the community that has invested so much in them. Furthermore, it may help to establish a selfless desire within the students to continue to care for those in need in the community throughout their lives.

Program: News byte regarding "Richlands Gives Back"

Date: October 24, 2011 at 7:40 am and 8:40 am

Guest: Jared McGaffee, student leader in charge of the "Richlands Gives Back" project at Richlands High School

"Richlands Gives Back" is a commonly heard phrase at Richlands High School, because it is the heart's desire of principal Karen Webb. Ever since her tenure began, she has encouraged the students - both by example and by provision of opportunities - to contribute back to a community that is constantly demonstrating support for the students and the school.

Regardless of the need or the request, businesses and individuals have opened arms and wallets to help in any way they can. Some have made generous financial contributions; others have given large donations of time and other resources. Mrs. Webb is always quick to recognize those who have contributed. She not only shows her appreciation, but she encourages her students to do likewise.

Jared McGaffee is a very personable senior and excellent student leader. The particular project entitled, "Richlands Gives Back," is his brainchild, and he instituted the project in the past. This year, he hoped for a bigger and better response than ever. In the radio clips, he explained what the project is about and how the community could help if they so desired.

Jared explained that, in the past, he overheard a student telling someone that their family could not afford to have Christmas with presents and a big meal. The realization that there were probably other students in this same situation pulled at Jared's heartstrings. He and most of his friends had more than they needed. He knew it was the right thing to do to make sure that - to the best of their ability - fellow students would also have a nice Christmas.

Jared approached Mrs. Webb with a plan and was given approval to get the project underway. The administration helped with the oversight of obtaining students' names and their "Christmas wish lists" and sizes. Jared encouraged students to be concerned about the needs of others and contribute generously to help fellow students that were financially challenged to receive nice Christmas gifts.

He and other students on his project committee collected money from students, teachers, staff, and anyone in the community that wanted to help. They purchased clothing and personal items along with some special "wished for" item for each of the students on their list according to the amount of donations they received.

ENCOURAGING BUSINESS STUDENTS TO EXCEL

Being a member of an organization whose purpose is to help students to get hands-on experience in business and marketing and to excel in their desired field gives students an excellent head start in achieving career goals and finding desirable employment. As a result of their membership in DECA, students learn about real life situations amazingly well due to the extra guidance provided and extremely well-structured competition.

Program: Info-bits promoting DECA several times throughout the day

Dates: November 14 - December 16, 2011

Guests: Students from several different Richlands High School business and marketing classes that are members of Virginia DECA and National DECA (more than 40 different voices recorded)

Over the years, WGTH has partnered with Richlands High School in order to promote DECA, a local/state/national organization that promotes outstanding performance in business and marketing. Many area business owners and professionals work with DECA students as employers and consultants to help them be successful in business and marketing careers.

SHARING CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY

One of the most special area Christmas performances and interactive opportunities for singing-in the season is the annual "Concert in the Square" held at the Cedar Bluff Town Square. For quite a few area residents, it is a standing engagement that they would not want to miss. However, for our shut-in's and other listeners who would love to be there but are not able, it is a blessing to be able to take part wherever they are by means of radio.

One of the most exciting comments that radio personnel can hear is, "It was almost like being there." Even more thrilling is, "It was as if we were right there." Bringing the action into the homes, businesses, and vehicles of our listeners is one of the most rewarding things we do.

Program: Concert in the Square (recorded and played shortly afterward)

Date: December 15, 2011

Guests: Richlands High School Choir and Richlands Middle School Choir

Linda Singleton, event organizer

Terry Hall, music teacher and choir director

Craig Smith, area musician and audio expert

WGTH has broadcast "Concert in the Square" events live in years past. This year, however, the concert was recorded and played shortly afterward. This allowed the listeners who could not be there to hear the concert as well as the folks that were in attendance and the performers themselves. Several people expressed their appreciation for the delay in the broadcasting.

The "Concert in the Square" is a very special part of Christmas - a treasured traditional event - for a significant number of area residents. Because the Richlands High School and Richlands Middle School choirs were singing, there was an even greater interest in the concert. Many relatives and friends take a genuine interest in the students' activities.

Linda Singleton, the primary event organizer, welcomed those in attendance at the concert and those listening to the radio. Her warm and hospitable ways add to the Christmas spirit.

Terry Hall talked about his students and the enjoyment he finds in teaching and directing them. He has a wonderful reputation for caring and showing exceptional concern for his students and their welfare.

Craig Smith shared some local music history... spotlighting individuals and groups that have had an impact on area music.

PRESERVATION OF LOCAL HISTORY

Tazewell County and the surrounding Appalachian region possess a rich history. Many of the significant local historical events have had a far reaching impact on Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina, as well as the establishment and development of the entire nation. From pioneer days to Revolutionary War activity to important skirmishes in the War Between the States... this county and this region have abundant accounts and anecdotes that prove their historical worth.

The preservation of this rich history is important to folks from this area and to a much larger population, too. Thankfully, much attention has been paid to efforts to preserve area history and to do so using creative approaches and captivating means. Knowing where we came from and what was required of those who got us this far may help develop an appreciation for our heritage. Additionally, there is great value in learning from the past to prepare for the future.

Program: Promotional segments for "A Frontier Christmas" (info bits aired throughout the day)

Dates: November 29 - December 2, 2011

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

Among the most important and outstanding cultural heritage preservers is Tazewell County's Historic Crab Orchard Museum. From its small beginnings, the museum has grown to be housed in a very nice facility with secure areas for temperature and lighting control, and other safety provisions for the items that are to be displayed on a rotational basis. The grounds typify a small pioneer settlement and consist of several authentic cabins, a barn, and other structures of genuine quality.

During "A Frontier Christmas," the cabins and the barn are decorated as they would have been in the days of their origin. Area families that are dedicated to historic preservation lead in the singing of Christmas songs appropriate to the time period, and wassail and other culinary fragrances waft through the air. Museum staff and volunteers wear authentic style clothing and welcome visitors to do the same.

Charlotte Whitted, the executive director of Historic Crab Orchard Museum, does a magnificent job recording the annual audio promotional invitation to the event with traditional dulcimer music in the background.

PROMOTION OF AREA CHRISTMAS PARADES

Large numbers of people always turn out for area parades. The Christmas parades are extremely popular. Children of all ages love to view the sights, hear the sounds, and grab the candy tossed in their direction. Others want to see their children and friends on the floats or in the band.

Knowing the necessary information for entering a float or a team on a flatbed is important to those responsible for handling such matters. The date, time, and other pertinent information about the actual parade is crucial to many of our listeners.

Program: Promotional segments (info bits) regarding the various area Christmas parades played throughout the day

Dates for the Honaker Christmas Parade: November 17 - 21, 2011

Guest: C. H. Wallace, Mayor of the Town of Honaker

Dates for the Richlands Christmas Parade: November 23 - 26, 2011

Guests: Seth White, Northwestern District Supervisor

Tressa Boyd, Spokesperson for the Downtown Richlands Festival and Parade Committee

Dates for the Tazewell Christmas Parade: December 1 - 4, 2011

Guest: Becky Duncan, Executive Director for the Tazewell Area Chamber of Commerce

Each of the above guests presented an audio invitation to their parade giving both the essential information and interesting specifics to make attendance even more desirable. Listeners were knowledgeable about parade entries as well as when to go and what to expect.

RESTORATION OF A COMMUNITY ICON
&
ESTABLISHMENT OF A MUSEUM TO HONOR COAL MINING

When pride in one's heritage and wonderful childhood memories direct one's thinking, amazing accomplishments can result. Under the leadership of businessman, Jack Ray, a committee was formed to begin a project of immense proportions for the tiny community of Raven, Virginia. Plans include the restoration of the old Raven Theatre with its ice cream parlor, including the original and unique ice cream recipes and special flavors. Additional plans call for the development of a coal mining museum (inside the theater building) that will include coal extraction equipment from back in the days when mules and wagons were used and span the years through to today's more modern techniques. A collection of donated items reminiscent of days gone by, as well as pictures and other memorabilia, will also be featured.

Program: Live remote broadcast of the signing over of the deed to the old Raven Theatre and the land on which it sits by landowner, Henry Wilson to the Raven Theatre and Coal Museum Committee under the authority of Tazewell County RDA.

Date: October 7, 2011

Guests: Jack Ray, committee chairman

Seth White, Northwestern District Supervisor

Committee members: Grat Webb, Jennings Webb, and other area citizens reminiscing about the theater and ice cream parlor in their glory days

The formal signing over of the deed to the old Raven Theatre and the property included was broadcast live on 540 WGTH. Landowner, Henry Wilson, donated the property at a special ceremony at the site where what remains of the structure stands. Plans were announced by the committee to restore and/or rebuild the theater and the ice cream store - with the same, delicious Wilson Ice Cream - on that very location.

The committee's goals included: preserving a piece of history for the Raven community, providing a location that would offer classic movie viewing, re-opening the ice cream store, and opening a coal museum to preserve the history of local coal mining... the lifeblood of the community.

Testimonies by local residents reflected on the value of the Raven Theatre and Wilson Ice Cream as the main source of entertainment and fun during their childhood years. Apparently, a movie ticket and a bag of popcorn only cost about ten cents. Just about everyone had to walk to the theater, and it was the sole source of affordable entertainment in a public setting.

The theater opened around 1936 and was open until 1977. There were 160 seats in the original theater. The remodeled version will hold slightly less.