

WGTH PROBLEMS & PROGRAMS LIST

FIRST QUARTER 2018

JANUARY – MARCH

THE INAUGURATION OF VIRGINIA'S GOVERNOR

On Saturday, January 13, 2018, Doctor Ralph Northam became the 73rd Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia. This event is quite important, especially because the governor holds considerable power and influence over much of what happens in the state during his four-year term of office. The inauguration is, also, an important part of the history of Virginia. Additionally, the initial address to the citizens of the state sets the tone for the gubernatorial leadership expectations for the next four years. The inaugural address should be of interest to the listeners, and its broadcast is of significant value.

Program: The broadcast of the recorded swearing-in ceremony and Governor Northam's inaugural address

Date: January 15, 2018, from 11:07 am – 11:33 am

Guest: Governor Ralph Northam

April Trent, from WGTH, went to the state capitol in Richmond, Virginia in order to cover the Inauguration of Governor Ralph Northam. While there, she recorded the swearing-in ceremony and the inaugural address.

Governor Northam stated some of his goals for the Commonwealth under his administration. Among his aspirations were his desire for a more unified Virginia and his willingness to work with both parties to achieve what is best for all Virginians.

In addition, she recorded reactions and comments made by some of the people from Tazewell County and the larger region of Southwest Virginia that were, also, in attendance. These interviews were aired adjacent to the noon news broadcasts and were approximately five minutes total each day.

Program: Brief interviews with community leaders and political figures from Tazewell County and the Southwest Virginia region

Date: January 16, 2018 @ 12:15 pm

Guests: Mike Hymes, member of the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors; Cecelia Hymes; Regina Sayers, representing the Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens

Date: January 17, 2018 @ 12:16 pm

Guests: Stacy Ely representing Ballard Health Systems with the recent hospital merger involving Mountain States and Wellmont; Ryan Elswick and Paul Elswick, father and son representing Sunset Digital Communications that acquired control of the OptiNet Division of BVU and spoke regarding broadband Internet and other services

Date: January 18, 2018 @ 12:16 pm

Guests: Deborah Bunn, representing the Democratic Party of the Ninth Congressional District of Virginia, and Derek Kitts, a former Democratic candidate

Date: January 19, 2018 @ 12:18 pm

Guests: Democratic members of the Virginia State House of Delegates – Chris Hurst, from the 12th District, and Sam Rasoul, from the 11th District

Chris Hurst was recently appointed to the Education Committee and spoke regarding education in Virginia. He, briefly, mentioned gun reform. Sam Rasoul, from the 11th District, spoke about campaigning without contributions from lobbying groups. He, also, discussed bills that had recently been passed.

Most of the people interviewed gave their personal and/or professional perspective of the inauguration. In addition, most expressed how they felt the Northam administration would benefit their concerns or what issues they hoped to address with the new governor.

PROVISIONS FOR THE LOCAL FOOD PANTRY

The Good Samaritan Food Pantry services a larger number of area residents. Although schools, individuals, and many area churches and other charitable organizations donate to the pantry and send volunteers to help with distribution, it seems there is always a greater demand than what is available. Due to the area's struggling economy, it takes a lot of food to meet the resultant needs.

Program: "Souper Bowl" Food Drive promotion (63 seconds)

Dates: January 30 – February 2, 2018, aired throughout the day

Guest: Don Smith, retired community college educator and regular volunteer at the Good Samaritan Food Pantry

Don Smith recorded an impassioned plea for the community to rally and take part in the annual "Souper Bowl" food drive that is held in conjunction with the NFL Super Bowl. Churches take part in this food drive and have a friendly competition to see which church sends the most donations by weight. Don suggested that monetary contributions are always welcome, because the food pantry has access to food banks in which the cost of the food is greatly reduced from that in most grocery stores... allowing the donor's money to go farther. Additionally, he

mentioned that there would be volunteers from the Good Samaritan Food Pantry set up at the Winter Honey Festival to receive nonperishable food items or monetary contributions.

SERVICE DOGS FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS

The use of service dogs to help Wounded Warriors function in society following traumatic experiences in combat has proven to be amazingly successful. However, the cost is problematic. Many former military personnel have a dire need for these incredible companions, but they cannot afford them.

Program: Live remote broadcast from the Winter Honey Festival

Date: February 10, 2018 – Interview approximately five minutes

Guest: John “Marco” Warner

John “Marco” Warner talked about the Trustpoint Appalachian Service Dog Project that his insurance company is proud to sponsor. Each year, Trustpoint Insurance has an event known as the “Apple Butter Makin” at the local farm of Marco and Virginia Warner. The donations received for the jars of apple butter that are produced during the event go to the Appalachian Service Dog Project. The project’s goal is to raise enough funds to provide a service dog for a local Wounded Warrior annually. With the cost of the dog and its training being in the thousands of dollars, this is a much needed and very worthwhile project that benefits veterans. Marco was happy to report that sufficient donations have allowed the project to provide a service dog for a local Wounded Warrior for the past two years.

HONORING FALLEN WARRIORS

It is said, “All gave some, but some gave all.” The men and women who demonstrated extreme sacrificial service to the United States of America and its citizens deserve the utmost honor and respect. Those who sacrificed their lives for freedom deserve to have their names and lives be remembered forever.

Program: Live remote broadcast from the Winter Honey Festival

Date: February 10, 2018 – Interview approximately 15 minutes

Guest: Alfred Wicks, former National Guardsman

Alfred Wicks, a local Fallen Warriors representative, spoke about the honor that the nation’s Fallen Warriors should receive for sacrificing their very lives for the protection of the nation, national interests, and freedom. Specifically, Wicks told of the plan to construct a wall on which the names of all of the Fallen Warriors in a multiple county region will be listed and remembered. At present, the group is continuing to collect financial contributions for a durable wall that will be able to be put on display without being easily damaged. He mentioned that one of the services performed by the local chapter of the organization is the motorcycle motorcade that honors Fallen Warriors at their funerals by request. They have, also, begun an annual memorial bike ride on the Saturday before Memorial Day and a special memorial flag ceremony at the Freedom Festival in Richlands.

[An interesting revelation came out during the interview. Alfred Wicks was one of the local recipients of a Wounded Warrior dog.]

PROVIDING FOR HAITIAN ORPHANS

Even though there are many needs in local communities, there are people in other countries suffering from severe poverty, starvation, and utter hopelessness. Orphans, in most impoverished places, are either on the streets; or they must hope to find an orphanage that will care for them. Seldom are these orphanages funded by the government of that country. Most depend upon the generosity of foreigners.

Program: Live remote broadcast from the Winter Honey Festival

Date: February 10, 2018 – Interviews approximately 15 minutes total

Guests: April Quesenberry, director of Upward Bound at Southwest Virginia Community College and member of Community Heights Church; Dr. Chris Brown, of Chiropractic First in Richlands, Virginia

In an interview with April Quesenberry during the Winter Honey Festival remote broadcast, she talked about her love and concern for orphans that she had recently met in Haiti. April explained that she, Pam Sargent, and Pastor Brian Hoffman from Community Heights Church had gone on a fact-finding mission trip to familiarize themselves with an established orphanage. They were attempting to see if it would be a good fit for the church as a long term missions outreach. They returned with a favorable report.

April revealed a different approach to serving orphans and others in impoverished situations. Oftentimes, a church group will send money to assist orphans and, maybe, go for a week and help with construction or some other necessary act of service. Instead, Community Heights would help support the orphans, but they would go to train the older orphans how to do skills that would allow them to make a career for themselves. Otherwise, after they become too old to live at the orphanage, they would have no way to support themselves. Community Heights had a booth where they were selling water and collecting contributions for the Haitian orphans.

Dr. Chris Brown, of Chiropractic First, was doing free preliminary health assessments. He was offering further, more detailed assessments, at a discounted price that he would have to do at the office. With a spirit of generosity, he said that he would donate the amount paid for the office visits of those who signed up at the festival to the Haitian orphans.

COMFORT QUILTS FOR CHILDREN

IN EMOTIONALLY CHALLENGING SITUATIONS

Law enforcement officers and others are called upon to remove children from their homes because of abuse, neglect, parental death, etc. Children having to deal with new surroundings and unfamiliar faces need a source of constancy in such situations. The trauma that they have experienced is beyond imagination. Any measure of comfort that can be extended to them at times like these is beneficial.

Program: Live remote broadcast from the Winter Honey Festival

Date: February 10, 2018 – Interview approximately ten minutes

Guest: Ethel Watson, representing the Richlands Traditional Quilters

The Richlands Traditional Quilters have taken on a service project that comes from both their hearts and their hands. Ethel Watson, representing the quilters, shared about their concern for children who have to be removed from their homes for some tragic reason. Their concern turned into action as they have been making numerous “comfort quilts” for law enforcement officials to give to children when they are picked up. The comfort quilts are intended to stay with the children permanently and to provide some security and constancy.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR LOCAL PROFESSIONALS

Leadership skills, when honed, can maximize the effectiveness and productivity of a business or organization. The entire atmosphere of a business and the satisfaction of its personnel can be optimal under very good leadership. Unfortunately, few people are well-trained in leadership skills and even those with natural abilities seldom reach their full potential.

Program: Live remote broadcast from the Winter Honey Festival

Date: February 10, 2018 – Interview approximately five minutes

Guest: Ginger Branton, executive director of the Richlands Area Chamber of Commerce and Lead program promoter

Lead is a program that allows professionals with obvious potential and leadership skills to be mentored and surrounded by some of the most outstanding and experienced leadership experts available. Mostly targeting young professionals with entrepreneurial skills, some of the community's most promising business leaders have been through the Lead program. Not only have they benefitted from what they have gleaned from the experts that have mentored them, but their businesses have been enhanced, also. The strength of the business community in Tazewell County will, likely, be more competitive as a result of the intensified leadership abilities of the Lead alumni.

PROMOTION OF AREA FESTIVALS/EVENTS

Public awareness of the specific information about area festivals and events assists both the organizers and the festival/event-goers. Many hours and much labor go into the preparation and set up of a festival or event. Maximum coverage is an asset to those who have invested so much time and effort and desire to see the festival's continuance and expansion.

Program: Live remote broadcast from the Winter Honey Festival

Date: February 10, 2018 – Interviews approximately ten minutes total

Guests: Dr. John Willis, chiropractor, beekeeper, and Winter Honey Festival organizer; Vickie England, realtor with Century 21 and festival committee member; and Barry Alley, representing Clinch Valley Medical Center and festival committee member

John, Vickie, and Barry each talked about various aspects of the Winter Honey Festival. One common thread was the need for people to come and enjoy the festival. With enough people in attendance, the festival would receive acknowledgement from large promoters of festivals. This would be a big boost to the Winter Honey Festival and to the area's economy as the event's popularity grows.

THE APPRECIATION OF THE ARTS

In order to have a real appreciation for the arts, a person has to be exposed to the arts. In a small, rural community, exposure to the arts is more challenging than in larger towns and cities. Having talented actors, musicians, and other skilled entertainers visit the small towns is really special. It is entirely possible, if not probable, that some people may be inspired to pursue a career in the arts following a live performance.

Program: Live remote broadcast from the Winter Honey Festival

Date: February 10, 2018 – Interview approximately three minutes

Guest: Ginger Branton, representing Citizens for the Arts (CART)

The Richlands area has been so privileged to have wonderful arts performances travel to the area sponsored by private citizens and area businesses and corporations. Ginger uses every opportunity to promote CART performances and encourage attendance. She gave an enthusiastic rundown of the remaining performances for this season.

THE BENEFITS OF BEEKEEPING

Although the thought of being in proximity of hundreds of bees – even with protective gear – is not everyone’s cup of tea, there are people for whom it is a relaxing escape. One of the most obvious benefits of beekeeping, of course, is the harvesting of honey. Whether the honey is for sale, personal use, or to give away, there are many additional benefits that few people usually consider.

Program: Live remote broadcast from the Winter Honey Festival

Date: February 10, 2018 – Interview approximately 15 minutes

Guest: Daniel, the expert from Brushy Mountain Bee Farm

Brushy Mountain Bee Farm was the largest beekeeping vendor at the Winter Honey Festival. Daniel, the expert beekeeper, told some very interesting stories that demonstrated the benefits of beekeeping and of honey itself. Amazingly, beekeeping has been an effective aid in dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Daniel explained that many beekeepers find beekeeping to be very relaxing. They get out to the hives and get in a zone. The bees, actually, seem like friends and their buzzing has a soothing effect on some. He mentioned many other interesting and little known beekeeping and honey facts that are seldom considered by novices.

IMPROVEMENTS & REPAIRS FOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The Richlands Recreation Park was in a state of disrepair for many years. Several aspects regarding the original design and quality of the initial materials left a lot to be desired. However, money was an issue when it was built originally, and it remains an issue today.

Program: Recorded segments from the Richlands Recreation Park Grand Re-Opening that was held on Friday, March 16, 2018

Speakers, days, dates, times, and durations for broadcast segments:

*Jan White, Mayor of the Town of Richlands
Saturday, March 17th @ 8:38 am, 27 seconds

*Fred Phillips, Director of the Richlands Recreation Park
Monday, March 19th @ 8:38 am, 40 seconds

*Mike Bandy, representing the Clinch River Soccer Association
and Richlands Boys JV Soccer Coach
Monday, March 19th @ 12:10 pm, 57 seconds

*Jeff Hurst, President of the Clinch River Soccer Association and
Organizer of Richlands Recreation Park Basketball
Tuesday, March 20th @ 7:47 am, 1 minute, 13 seconds

*Mary Ann Strong, Recreation Commission member
Tuesday, March 20th @ 8:45 am, 1 minute, 43 seconds

*Delegate Will Morefield of the Virginia House of Delegates
Tuesday, March 20th @ 12:17 pm, 3 minutes, 47 seconds

Each speaker hailed the newly remodeled Richlands Recreation Park. Because the Town of Richlands did not have sufficient funds to pay for improvements and repairs to the rec park, Fred Phillips took it upon himself to ask for major contributions from local individuals, businesses, and corporations. After acquiring the funds, the work was done with the blessing of the town government and the Recreation Commission. Fred's efforts were applauded by the speakers. Memories of the importance of the rec park to them as children was emphasized as was the need for this generation and future generations to have a nice, safe place to practice and to play. The major improvements in the facility's appearance and cleanliness were frequently noted. Future plans for creating more parking spaces were mentioned as in the works.

SPECIAL DRAMATIC AND EXPERIENTIAL WORSHIP

Easter has become a time to dye eggs, hide plastic eggs, and give children baskets full of candy and toys. Some people would like to have an alternative to the current culture's celebration of Easter. They would like to be able to imagine what it would have been like to have been with Jesus during His final days before, during, and after His resurrection.

Program: Pre-recorded interviews about the "Walk with Jesus" interactive experience that Freedom Ministries is making available

Dates: March 18, 2018 @ 2:05 pm 5 minutes 47 seconds

March 19, 2018 @ 11:05 am 5 minutes 47 seconds

Guest: Kathy Addair from Freedom Ministries where Mickey Hale is the pastor

Kathy Addair explained that Freedom Ministries wanted to do something different that would help people to focus on the true meaning of Easter. Therefore, they are having a "Walk with Jesus" in which visitors can follow Jesus from Palm Sunday, to the Passover Feast in the Upper Room, to His death on the cross at Golgotha, to His burial, and to the victorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Guests will have an opportunity to fashion their own palm branches, worship and pray, and enjoy a light snack at the end. The entire event is designed to help participants get a feel for the suffering and agony that Jesus went through and the glorious overcoming of death at the Resurrection.