

WGTH PROBLEMS & PROGRAMS LIST

SECOND QUARTER 2013

APRIL - JUNE

HELP FOR THOSE WITH DRUG ADDICTIONS & THOSE CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROBLEM

Drug abuse and addiction problems are prevalent throughout our nation and in many, if not most, foreign countries. However, Southwest Virginia continues to be plagued by an inordinate percentage per capita of prescription drug abuse problems; and by OTC drugs obtained from unscrupulous vendors. Likewise, the number of drug overdose victims is exceptionally high. Tragedies occur far too frequently. The trends need to stop.

Program: News bytes from the One Care Project Lazarus Retreat held at Southwest Virginia Community College

Dates and Times: June 4 - 5, 2013 @ 7:45 am & 8:45 am

Guest: Mr. Fred Brason, founder and president/CEO of Project Lazarus

During four separate interview segments aired adjacent to the local news, comments from Fred Brason - hospice chaplain and founder and president/CEO of Project Lazarus - expressed the dire need to address the drug abuse issues in our region and hope for "positive and lifesaving changes." Statistics have shown that Tazewell County and neighboring Russell County "have the highest overdose rates from opioid medications in the Commonwealth of Virginia."

Project Lazarus is a community-based approach to saving lives by preventing overdose deaths, reducing or eliminating emergency room admissions related to substance abuse, and equipping friends and families of persons at-risk for drug overdose deaths with a simple lifesaving kit. When the kit is used with Naloxone (a legally obtainable drug), it allows almost immediate revival of respiratory effort. According to Brason, "Communities are responsible for their own health, and every drug overdose is preventable." In 2007, Brason launched a lengthy community awareness campaign after statistics showed his place of work and residence, Wilkes County, North Carolina, as the third highest locality for prescription overdose in the entire United States. Project Lazarus gained the support of, virtually, the entire community with phenomenal results. There was a 69% drop in overdose rates, 15% fewer substance abuse related emergency room admissions, and more than 70% of the prescribers (of drugs) in the county

registered with North Carolina's controlled substances drug monitoring program (versus 26% statewide).

One Care of Southwest Virginia, Inc. was introduced as "a new initiative" that will work to gain the assistance of various community leaders and resources to greatly reduce the overdose rates from opioid medications and, hopefully, help to eradicate the majority of the drug abuse epidemic in our region. Inspired by the Project Lazarus, not only in Wilkes County but in other locations where it has been implemented as well, One Care seeks to arouse community awareness of the problems and potential solutions and get proactive in the war against substance abuse.

Brason gave listeners practical advice regarding their wise use of prescription drugs. His first piece of advice was to take the medicine correctly and only if it was actually prescribed to them. Secondly, store the medication properly and hidden away securely from children and potential abusers. Finally, dispose of the medicine properly. He gave several options for safe disposal.

THE PURSUIT OF CRIMINAL DRUG DISTRIBUTION & PRESCRIPTION FRAUD

Tazewell County Commonwealth's Attorney Dennis Lee's office has been very cooperative with the news media in reporting indictments for drug charges. These charges stem from months of investigation regarding the possession of drugs with intent to sell and/or distribute or the outright distribution of various controlled substances, Schedule I or II drugs, marijuana, or synthetic cannabinoids. Other charges include prescription drug fraud and the possession of two or more substances to manufacture methamphetamine.

Program: News actuality recorded at a press conference one day prior and aired adjacent to the local news

Date and Time: June 4, 2013 @ 7:40 am

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

A press conference was held at the Richlands Police Department on June 3, 2013, and the names were released of individuals that were indicted by a recent Grand Jury for drug charges. The indictments came as a result of a twelve month investigation by the Tazewell County Narcotics Task Force, Tazewell County Sheriff's Office, the Virginia State Police, and the police departments from the towns of Richlands, Tazewell, Bluefield, and Cedar Bluff.

Commonwealth's Attorney, Dennis Lee, gave a brief synopsis of the drug roundup and issued some warnings. The warnings pertained to the sale of synthetic

drugs in stores or on the street. Lee emphasized the fact that people that purchase and use these drugs often suppose they are safe, because they are sold in a store. Lee contested this thinking by stating that these "research drugs," such as synthetic marijuana and "bath salts," have never been tested and pose potentially great danger to the users.

Lee said that oxycodone is the most popular drug of choice with methadone placing second. Regarding the length of time necessary from the time of the indictments to the completion of the actual roundup, Lee said that rural areas make arrests more difficult.

On a personal note, Lee indicated that it is a shame that more money is spent on crime fighting than is spent on prevention, education, and rehabilitation regarding substance abuse.

MAKING STUDENTS AWARE OF THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF DRINKING AND DRIVING & HOW INJURIES AND FATALITIES AFFECT MANY LIVES

Sometimes tragedies occur during, or soon after, high school activities that are supposed to be among the most enjoyable and positively memorable times in the lives of the student participants. These tragedies could often be averted by wise choices made by the students or by the heeding of good advice provided to them by others with more experience and safety awareness. The potentially harmful, or even fatal, choice of mixing drinking with driving is one students need to consider with solemnity ahead of time.

Program: News byte about the "Prom Promise" simulated scenes of a post prom wreck/emergency responders/funeral/court proceedings, etc. - at Ernie Hicks Stadium at Richlands High School (demonstrated the afternoon prior)

Date and Time: May 4, 2013 @ 8:40 am (the morning of the prom @ Richlands High School)

Guest: Rick Blevins, teacher of the EMT classes @ Richlands High School and coordinator of the Prom Promise event

Although warnings are frequently given to young people about the horrific dangers of drinking and driving, there is probably nothing more solemn than the mock demonstrations performed by fellow students at the high school they attend. (That is, of course, not taking into account a real life tragedy.) The gruesome scene of the wreck with realistic-looking blood "splattered" all over prom gowns, bodies, and crashed cars; the funeral with an actual student in the casket; the sentencing of

the driver; and a heart-wrenching, remorseful visit to a gravesite years later - all contribute to a very serious look at the potential dangers of driving under the influence.

Rick Blevins talked about the second annual Prom Promise demonstration. His EMT classes spent many hours preparing for the event and coordinating the cooperative emergency rescue personnel - even including a Virginia State Police Med flight helicopter dramatically landing in the end zone of the football field, again, this year. Under his oversight, the EMT students wrote scripts and a gripping song from the perspective of a sibling missing their loved one. Blevins acknowledged his students' efforts and explained the bottom line purpose for the program and his desire that students would take the message to heart and not drink and drive. He expressed genuine hope that no preventable tragedies would occur.

UNSELFISH PILOTING OF FINAL FLIGHTS ON EARTH

Among life's unsung heroes are the "Angel Flight" volunteer pilots that take time out of their busy schedules to transport terminally ill patients to their final destinations in life and do so without charging the passengers for the services rendered.

Program: News bytes adjacent to local news recorded following the arrival of an "Angel Flight" from Greenville, South Carolina, transporting a young woman with aggressive, terminal cancer back "home" for her final days

Date and Times: April 25, 2013 @ 7:45 am & 8:45 am

Guest: Victor Steele, an "Angel Flight" volunteer pilot

Following a hardy "Welcome Home" for a former area resident with terminal cancer that chose to live out her final days with her parents in the remote mountain home where she grew up, a humble Victor Steele agreed to an interview about "Angel Flight." Steele explained that the pilots that participate can fly frequently or every now and then - according to their schedules and preferences. He went on to reveal that the satisfaction he experienced in helping others was what motivated him and the other "Angel Flight" pilots he knows.

"Angel Flight" is a special blessing to patients. Oftentimes, they are so sick that travel is extremely difficult and uncomfortable; therefore, special measures and considerations have to be taken. Of course, most patients have costly medical bills; therefore, the fact that the pilots do not charge for their services is a very selfless and heroic act of kindness on their part.

EXAMINING ISSUES THAT GREATLY AFFECT AMERICANS

There are many issues that concern Americans. However, some are more fiscally and morally impacting than others. How our nation, and more specifically our government, deals with these issues will largely determine the overall health and welfare of the citizenry.

Program: Excerpts from Jeb Bush's speech @ Bluefield College
the day prior (aired adjacent to local news)

Date and Times: April 17, 2013 @ 7:45 am (Energy Policy)
& 8:45 am (Family Values)

Guest: Jeb Bush, politician and former Governor of Florida,
son to President George H. W. Bush,
and brother to President George W. Bush

Jeb Bush had been invited to speak at Bluefield College in October; but, due to an unseasonably harsh and premature snowstorm, he had to postpone his visit. It was rescheduled for April 16, 2013.

Speaking with keen awareness of current events and Obama Administration policies, Bush focused on a few of the issues that would greatly affect all Americans. According to Bush, the energy policy of the Obama Administration and the legislative leanings of Congress have potentially devastating effects on the economy and the energy independence of the United States. Obviously well-read on the natural resources available within our nation and how readily obtainable they are, Bush made a great case for the pursuit of those resources to fuel our energy. He explained that the methods of extracting resources and producing energy have modernized and need to be implemented. Bush proposed several solutions that would allow the continued use of coal, including the increased use of fracking. He seemed well-aware of the loss of jobs in "coal country," as a result of the Administration's anti-coal policies, and the far-reaching and negative effects that have taken their toll on individuals and families in this region.

The protection of family values in our nation is crucial according to Bush. He shared numerous statistics to back up his commonsense claims for the overwhelming value of a two-parent family beginning with the marriage of a man and woman. He argued that the moral decline in our culture has contributed to the breakdown of the family - the most essential institution for the well-being, happiness, and stability of its members. Statistics show that stable and emotionally healthy homes generally produce well-adjusted and community-minded citizens. Bush proposed policy changes that would protect the institution of the family and traditional marriage.

PROMOTING YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS THAT BUILD CHARACTER

Even children that receive outstanding character training in loving homes can use reinforcement from other, like-minded leaders and mentors. Organized and enjoyable settings offer great opportunities for young people to learn how to be "givers" and lose the "entitlement" mentality. Practicing good manners, respecting elders and those in authority, and being kind and thoughtful to peers are examples of good character habits that organizations can promote and help establish in children at a young age.

Program: Introduction of Boy Scouts from a local troop and Cub Scouts from a local den (recorded following a radio station tour)

Date and Time: May 8, 2013 @ 7:15 am

Guests: Various Boys Scouts and Cub Scouts

Following a tour of WGTH on the evening of May 7, 2013, a group of Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts introduced themselves by giving their names and scouting ranks. On May 8, 2013, WGTH announced that the scouts had taken a tour of the station the previous day and played their recorded introductions.

RECOGNITION OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF LOCAL YOUTH

Young people put hours and a lot of effort into practicing and playing games for their schools. Their hard work should be rewarded by community recognition, especially when they achieve remarkable goals.

Program: Interview with the Richlands High School Boys' Soccer Coach

Date: May 27, 2013

Guest: Chris Hunt

Program: Interview with the Richlands High School Girls' Soccer Coach

Date: May 30, 2013

Guest: LaRhonda Lindsey

The outstanding athletic accomplishments of this year's boys' and girls' soccer teams were well worth recognizing. In the past, the Richlands High School soccer program had struggled to compete with other area schools with years of experience and exceptional talent. Hard work and heart helped this year's athletes go to the Regionals. Each coach talked about their individual players and their team's accomplishments that exceeded any in years past.

PROMOTING LOCAL FESTIVALS

Even though many of our area festivals are held about the same time each year, many folks have become accustomed to listening to WGTH for important specific information regarding dates, times, locations, new events, etc. The area festival committees are very appreciative for the dissemination of this information at no charge to them. These festivals are an important source of income for most of the small towns and their stores, restaurants, and vendors. Likewise, the listeners seem to respond well to the promotions. It is not uncommon for people to travel a goodly distance to the festivals after hearing the promotions.

Program: Honaker Redbud Festival promotional bits

Dates: April 12 - 20, 2013 (aired throughout the day)

Guests: Honaker Redbud Festival Committee members each promoting the events for which they are responsible, including:

- Ann Taylor - Homecoming Dinner
Car & Truck Show
- Jim Baldwin - Bird Walk
Redbud and Blues Mountain Music Festival
Canoe Race
Family Fun Day
- Diane Fuller - Pet Show
Book celebrating 30 years of the festival
- Cathy Ray - Arts & Crafts
- Gaynelle Street - Breakfast
- Carla Wallace - Pageants

The Honaker Redbud Festival is the premier activity in the neighboring town. Although the Honaker townspeople are quite aware of the festival, the surrounding localities would not be so well-informed; because the small, rural town is somewhat tucked away from the more frequently traveled routes. In addition to giving the dates, times, locations, and a brief description of the event, new attractions or activities and the current year's performing artists are introduced ahead of time.

Program: Freedom Festival promotional bits

Dates: June 24 - 29, 2013 (aired throughout the day)

Guest: Jan White, Mayor of the Town of Richlands

Mayor Jan White recorded informational bits that were aired prior to the event. These bits explained what was taking place, where, and at what times. This information allowed the listeners to be where they wanted to be at the optimal times. She also gave contact information for potential vendors.

Mayor White emphasized that the Freedom Festival would not only celebrate our national heritage, but also our town's coal mining heritage and our Appalachian regional heritage. She announced that the railroad would also be highlighted as plans are in the works for a renovation of the old Railroad Section Foreman's House.

Program: The 1st Annual Richlands Freedom Festival
(remote broadcast)

Date: June 29, 2013

Guests: Mayor Jan White with general information

Historians: Rod Cury, resident & town councilman

Cassie & Randy Elswick, representing the

Tazewell County Historical Society

Charles Dahnmon Whitt (Confederate Colonel)

Sidney Hendrick (Abraham Lincoln)

Danny Culver (Ulysses S. Grant)

Fred "Powerhouse" Powers (coal miner)

Artist & Brick Sculptor: Johnny Hagerman

Quilters: Carol Bohon and Penny Hagerman

Entertainment: "Mr. Bill" of the "Mr. Bill & Bodie Show"

(children's interactive shows)

General comments: Seth White, Northwestern District

Supervisor (from opening ceremony)

Jim Boyd, distinguished citizen

The First Annual Richlands Freedom Festival was held on Saturday, June 29, 2013. There was enthusiastic participation among the businesses, vendors, and various civic organizations; so much so that several roads were blocked off and activities were spread out across a wide area.

A special feature focus of the event was the activity going on at the Railroad Section Foreman's House. Plans of the Town of Richlands' proposed restoration of the Section Foreman's House were being shown to the public. The plans also included a public gathering area and a stunning 36 foot free-standing mural by Ellen Elmes, an extraordinarily talented artist that will feature historic railroad scenes peculiar to the Richlands area and the route between Norton and Bluefield.

PRESERVATION OF LOCAL HISTORY

The rich heritage of Southwest Virginia and Tazewell County, in particular, offers many links to the important events in history that children study in their textbooks. From early pioneer days, through significant "War Between the States" skirmishes, to the establishment of what had been expected to become "The Pittsburgh of the South," local history has some fascinating contributions to the bigger picture. Understanding the effects of various events in local history on the development of the area and the people themselves, allows students of all ages to have a better grasp on the heritage they were blessed to receive. The importance of history and how it affects the future may come to light for them as well.

Program: "The Skirmish at Jeffersonville" informational bit

Dates: April 16 - 20, 2013 (aired throughout the day)

Guest: Charlotte Whitted, Executive Director of the Historic Crab Orchard Museum in Tazewell, Virginia

The 9th Annual Skirmish at Jeffersonville Encampment and Battle Re-enactment was held Saturday, April 20, 2013, on the grounds of the Historic Crab Orchard Museum in Tazewell. Prior to the event, Charlotte Whitted recorded a very creative and compelling audio invitation for the radio listeners. Using dulcimer music in the background for added authenticity, she gave informational details as if the listeners would be stepping into that period of time with the Yankees and the Rebels.

Program: "The Skirmish at Jeffersonville" (remote broadcast)

Date: April 20, 2013

Guests: Charlotte Whitted, Executive Director of the Historic Crab Orchard Museum

Anita McGraw, re-enactor and Confederate culinary expert

Gentleman portraying the first African-American soldier

Carmen from the Daily Bread Diner where 1907 attire is worn

Alana Anderson, museum intern

3 student re-enactors from Bluefield College

"The Skirmish at Jeffersonville Encampment and Battle Re-enactment" took place on Saturday, April 20, 2013, in Tazewell, Virginia. All the re-enactors and museum personnel were in period attire and were able to relate pertinent information regarding the skirmish and their "parts" in the day. Anita McGraw was very involved in the "Ladies' Tea" that took place during the remote. She explained

what menu items were typically involved and how the social events were a part of life in the 1800's. Charlotte Whitted gave another invitation as she reviewed the day's scheduled events and gave further background information.