

**WGTH PROBLEMS & PROGRAMS LIST**  
**FIRST QUARTER 2015**  
**JANUARY – MARCH**

**SCHOOL/CHURCH/BUSINESS CLOSINGS & DELAYS**

The winter weather was especially troublesome to area residents and businesses this year. Icy road conditions and sheer depth of snow forced numerous school and business closings and delays, as well as church cancellations. Although there are more on-line sites where this information can be found, listeners have depended on WGTH to give the information frequently and accurately. Also, in rural Appalachia, there are still people without access to computers and the internet.

**Program:** Most of the announcements were made adjacent to the news/ weather and community calendar

**Dates:** Whenever it was necessary throughout the quarter,

According to listener comments, WGTH is a reliable source of information upon which they depend. WGTH is frequently notified by the local public school system before the information is released to anyone else. Sometimes, WGTH has the only church information. Even in this day of social media, listeners appreciate having one source where they can get all the information, pertinent to our county and the surrounding counties, at the same time. Although there are those in the listening area that have no phone, cellular device, or internet, most people do have a radio.

## STRENGTHENING MARRIAGES & FAMILIES

The breakdown of marriages and the family unit has a direct correlation to the increase in troubled youth and adults. The rise in crime and immoral behavior can, also, be largely attributed to a lack of training and modeling of integrity and Biblical moral values. Society continues to take a nosedive, because the family unit has been compromised. Divorce has been linked to an increase in financial problems, including outright poverty. Strengthening and preserving marriages and families may be the most important solution to the social dilemmas of society today.

Program: "Family Talk with James Dobson"

Dates: Weekdays at 5:05 p.m.

Guest: Dr. James Dobson, well-known Christian psychologist, author, speaker, and marriage and family preservationist

"Family Talk with James Dobson" is a 90 second weekday nugget of important insights, information, and inspiration that is designed to strengthen marriages and families. In the brief duration of the broadcast, Dr. James Dobson effectively makes a point worth pondering... causing the listener(s) to focus on some aspect of marriage or family life. The topics vary widely and cover the entire realm of marriage from newlyweds to life in the golden years and family life from pregnancy to empty nest to becoming grandparents.

Some of the programs contain Dr. Dobson's personal stories. Some feature statistical information about various positive or negative influences on marriage or the family. Other programs feature quotes and/or stories from others that contain noteworthy information. Many include a blend of these features. All of the programs cause the realization that marriages and families are important.

## LOCAL FLOOD AND HIGH WATER REPORTS

Recent heavy rains in combination with melting snow made for dangerously high water and some flooding throughout the area. There are certain areas that are more prone to flooding than others due to their proximity to the Clinch River and the mountainous terrain that sends the water to the lower elevations. Knowing the status of the high water and flood plains helps listeners' awareness of potential danger and localities to avoid. Listeners are, also, knowledgeable about areas where they work, go to school, attend church, or have friends and family.

Program: Live flood reports from around the area

Date: March 4, 2015, between 5:15 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Ron Brown called in live reports from several locations around the Richlands, Cedar Bluff, and Raven communities that are prone to flooding. He described the height of the water at locations and landmarks that are familiar to area residents. Routes to avoid in traveling around the area and road closures were announced.

## RECOGNIZING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF YOUNG ATHLETES

Young people work hard to accomplish their athletic endeavors. Public recognition of these achievements is important to the youth and allows the community to celebrate with them. Living in a small town with neighboring small towns, a large representation from each community likes to demonstrate pride in the accomplishments of their young people.

WGTH has maintained a close working relationship with area coaches. The coaches are aware that the station personnel enjoy recognizing area athletes as much as they enjoy bragging on them.

Programs: Special interviews with Richlands High School coaches during Richlands High School basketball broadcasts

Date: February 25, 2015 at 3:40 p.m.

Guest: Frank Daugherty, Richlands Varsity Wrestling head coach

Coach Daugherty (“Coach D”) was interviewed by Ron Brown about the recent capture of the state wrestling title by Caleb Lankford. He described Caleb’s season and his successful climb to the top at state. Ezekiel Vance placing third in his weight class at state and Zeke’s great season were other topics of discussion. Lastly, Coach D delivered a recap of the season and loved every minute of bragging on his boys.

Date: February 27, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Guest: Dennis Palmer, Richlands Varsity Girls Basketball coach

Coach Palmer was interviewed regarding his Richlands Lady Blues earning a berth in the regional tournament. He highlighted some of the individual accomplishments of the girls on the road to attaining this accomplishment.

## PROMOTING THE ARTS

Citizens for the Arts (CART) is an organization dedicated to promoting the arts in Richlands and, occasionally, in nearby towns as well. Unlike urban and suburban areas, the rural Appalachian Mountain region does not afford numerous opportunities for arts performances other than the ones generated by local citizens and performed within the community. Although there is an abundance of string and vocal musical talent in Appalachia, there is not a lot of exposure to the variety of art forms available elsewhere. CART and generous sponsors bring wonderful performances to the community in theater, music, dance, and other artistic forms. WGTH assists in promoting the performances.

Program: Live interview regarding the upcoming CART performance, "Della's Diner"

Date: February 7, 2015 at 2:05 p.m.

Guest: Harris Wheeler, composer and songwriter

WGTH has worked with CART to promote their public performances and make the listeners aware of the dates, times, and locations. The promotion for this event was a little more special than most. Richlands was privileged to be the location for the opening night of this particular performance, "Della's Diner," as a traveling Off-Broadway musical production. At the invitation of some friends that live nearby, Harris Wheeler, the composer and songwriter for "Della's Diner," visited the area and was present for the CART performance.

Mr. Wheeler was interviewed by WGTH's April Trent about his musical background and the program that would be performed that night. He discussed his career in music and went into detail about the "musical comedy soap opera" for which he had written the entire score. A very accomplished musician and songwriter, Mr. Wheeler, was more than up for the challenge of writing the music and lyrics for the show that features "country, blues, gospel and rockabilly" tunes. CART and the particulars for "Della's Diner" were discussed.

### PROMOTING AREA EVENTS

When a family friendly event is scheduled in the local community or one of those nearby, WGTH is willing to participate in promoting it according to the wishes of the sponsors/organizers. Most of the people involved in local event planning are aware of WGTH as a resource for promotion and send press releases and other information to us. Most of the larger events have a representative that serves as a spokesman to

provide detailed information by means of audio bytes recorded by WGTH staff. These bytes usually include an invitation to the event and share information that makes attendance compelling. In some situations, an interview is also done with the spokesman in order to get a good overview of the event and its associated activities.

In addition to recognizing or celebrating the obvious theme or focus, events held in small towns in Southwest Virginia often serve as a means of a financial boost to the area and the participants. Many, also, feature an educational aspect. Another benefit of events that is treasured by small town folks is the opportunity for fellowship that they provide. In other words, there is more than meets the eye (the ear in radio) to having an event in a small town.

Program: Winter Honey Festival audio bytes played throughout the day

Dates: February 9 – 14, 2015

Program: Winter Honey Festival interview

Date: February 7, 2015 at 9:10 a.m.

Guest: Dr. John Willis, spokesperson for the festival

Dr. John Willis, retired chiropractor and current beekeeper, spoke on behalf of the Clinch River Beekeeping Association and the Richlands Area Chamber of Commerce – key sponsors of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Winter Honey Festival. He explained that the two organizations thought that it would be nice to have a festival that people would enjoy and that could be held indoors during the winter. Thus, the Winter Honey Festival was born in 2014. Since honey and love are often coupled in people's minds, they decided to hold the festival close to or on Valentine's Day each year. This year, Valentine's Day fell on a Saturday. Although the exposition was the main event, there were related activities held from February 7<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup> at various locations.

Dr. Willis gave a rundown on the activities and their dates, times, and locations over the eight day period. He invited listeners to attend as many activities as possible. Related activities included such things as:

- \*beekeeping classes – taught by Virginia Tech extension agents
- \*two CART performances – theater groups
- \*local church and restaurant participation
- \*a visiting author
- \*an Appalachian storyteller and musician
- \*a semi-formal dance with music performed by a jazz ensemble

The locations for these activities included several at Southwest Virginia Community College, some at the Appalachian Arts Center, two at Richlands Middle School, and one scheduled for Historic Crab Orchard Museum. The exposition took place at the Richlands Police Department.

## BENEFITTING FROM BEES, HONEY, HEALTH FOODS AND WHOLESOME ACTIVITIES

There was much to learn from the folks at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Winter Honey Festival. Many of the folks shared interesting information about bees and beekeeping, honey, health foods, baked goods, quilting, pottery making, jewelry making, and more. Allowing the listeners to hear the wisdom and knowledge of the vendors and participants may have helped spark their interest in a career or hobby. At the very least, hearing the interviews may have given them some ideas to try on their own.

Program: Live remote broadcast from the Winter Honey Festival

Date: February 14, 2015 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

(1 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. was simulcast on WGTH-FM)

## Guests and topics:

- Dr. John Willis – Welcome and overview; beekeeping
- Ginger Branton – Welcome from Chamber of Commerce
- Ethel Watson and Donna Coleman – Richlands Quilt Club; quilts made for the police to give to young victims of violence and trauma
- Linda Bays – Honey
- Carolyn Neal – Basket weaving
- Emerson Kirby – Soap making
- Kathy Bennett – Barn quilt decorations
- Kim Lawson – Honey
- Sue and Ron Lester – Honey
- Tim and Pam Bruckner – Purchasing beekeeping equipment
- FCCLA teacher and students (Kristen) – Smoothies project
- Doug Branton – Pottery making
- Hope (Valley Bee Supply) – Bee feeders
- Martha Cole and Britney Hagy (Clinch Valley Medical Center) – Treating bee stings/first aid
- Brenda Cheryl Gillespie – Author
- Balkan Bakery representatives based in Abingdon, Virginia
- Faye Brewster – Tazewell County tourism (Visitors Center)
- Karen Patton – Woodmen of the World/Avon
- Marco Warner – Bees of Deskin Mountain products and antiques
- Carless Matney – Knives and leather cases
- Joe Tennis – Author
- Brandon Hensley – Southwest Virginia Community College
- Monte Phelps – (Somewhere in Thyme Herbals) Herbs
- Herley Blankenship – Bees
- Betsy Ellifrits-Warren – Pastor of Richlands FUMC – Outreach
- John Blankenship and Tommy Gilbert – Beekeeping
- Ed Forney – (Geezer Ridge Farm) Beekeeping