

# WGTH ISSUES & PROGRAMS LIST

## THIRD QUARTER 2019

### JULY – SEPTEMBER

#### REMEMBERING POW'S AND MIA'S

There are approximately 82,000 American POW's and MIA's that have yet to be accounted for according to local veterans who are seeking to make sure that they are not forgotten. Earlier this year, there was the dedication of the POW-MIA Memorial in remembrance of area heroes. Now, the names of all known POW's and MIA's from Virginia will be displayed on a lighted tower. Additionally, the poignant visible reminder of the POW-MIA Missing Man Chair was set in place for public viewing.

Program: Announcements regarding the dedication of the POW-MIA Tower of Heroes and the Missing Man Chair

Dates: August 6, 8, and 9, 2019, at various times throughout the day

Duration: 1 minute, 8 seconds – 11 times

Guest: Linda Singleton, chairperson of the Cedar Bluff Business and Professional Association

Linda Singleton, chairperson for the Cedar Bluff Business and Professional Association, spoke on behalf of Jim and Pat Ray and others involved in the dedication of the POW-MIA Memorial at the Cedar Bluff Overlook Park. She announced the dedication of the Tower of Heroes and the Missing Man Chair that would be taking place on August 9, 2019. Linda invited all who would like to participate to come to the dedication and reminded listeners to “never forget.”

The Tower of Heroes will display the names of the POW's and MIA's from Virginia – numbering, approximately, 1,450. It will be lighted at night and visible from Route 460 where it is expected to be seen by about 2,000 to 3,000 passersby daily.

## SUGGESTED STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH BULLYING

Tragically, many children and teens have been victims of the cruel practice known as “bullying.” Public exposure has intensified regarding the magnitude and gravity of this horrific offense. One positive outcome of the outcry is that parents, teachers, counselors, and others with influence in the lives of youth are becoming proactive in helping victims and potential victims to learn strategies for dealing with bullying. Just the fact that responsible and caring adults are showing support for their children and others that are being bullied, may help children to be more transparent regarding the difficulties they are having with bullies in person and on social media. Discussions and strategies for assisting friends and acquaintances that are being bullied is another helpful outcome.

Program: “The Kevin and Taylor Show”

Date: September 23, 2019

Time: Six segments between 4:15 pm and 4:55 pm

Duration: Approximately nine minutes total

Guests: Kevin Avery and Taylor Scott with listeners who called in comments

One hour of the syndicated “Kevin and Taylor Show” dealt with bullying in all six segments. Initially, Kevin and Taylor shared some very upsetting accounts of real life bullying situations and how difficult it is for children and teens to defend themselves – especially on social media. When they spoke with some of their listeners that called in, several had been victims of bullying and shared their experiences and advice to others. Other callers were parents giving advice related to handling bullying situations. Related topics that were discussed included: how to get your child to open up when they have been bullied; how to speak up for your child or intervene when necessary; how to help your child know when and how to defend themselves; encouraging your child to speak up on behalf of victims when they see bullying occurring; and how and why bullying can be so destructive.

A very important aspect of defense against bullying that was mentioned had to do with maintaining self-esteem regardless of what others say about you. Discerning the difference between truth and lies is a significant tool in the mind of the one bullied, but rejection and negativity are powerful forces that make discernment difficult to implement.

## PROVIDING CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CHILDREN TRULY IN NEED

Numerous individuals and families in the Southwest Virginia and Southern West Virginia region are impoverished. Disabilities and job loss account for many folks finding themselves in tough economic situations. However, alcohol and drug abuse are contributing factors in too many cases.

It is not unusual for children living in poverty to have to do without suitable clothing, sufficient food, and decent toys. All too often, the children living in poverty suffer even more than expected; because the adults who are responsible for the children's meager finances make poor choices. Accounts of parents mishandling their children's allotted money or backpack food are reported by teachers, social workers, and law enforcement officers.

Additionally, a significant number of people feel entitled to accept multiple handouts, and they "work the system" in order to obtain as much as possible from available charities. This practice, frequently, leaves little or nothing for those children who are truly in need.

Program: Pre-recorded interview regarding the benevolent program known as "Madman Turned Santa," that was played in conjunction with the Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival remote

Date: September 21, 2019

Time: 11:50 – 11:59 am

Duration: 9 minutes

Guest: Frank Browning, aka "Madman in the Morning," YouTube show host

Several years ago, Frank Browning and his wife, Kim, decided to give back to the community by helping to make Christmas special for children in need. At first, Frank participated in the "Shop with a Cop" program. Unfortunately, he saw several instances of people taking advantage of the program by going from store to store to shop with different policemen at different stores. Additionally, there were evidences that not all of the children involved were, legitimately, "in need." Discouraged, but still wanting to help, Frank and Kim decided to establish their own benevolence event that would better meet the needs of children who were truly "in need."

Thus began, “Madman Turned Santa.” Frank Browning has a YouTube program that is called, “Madman in the Morning.” Frank, of course, is the “Madman.” The show is predominantly about sports, but it has been useful in launching Frank’s appeal for assistance in providing a very special Christmas for children and teens in Tazewell, Buchanan, and Russell counties in Virginia, and in Mercer County, West Virginia.

Frank asks that people write letters to recommend a child or a teen to receive special gifts at Christmas based on need. (It can be anyone other than themselves.) Frank inquires as to what the individual wants or needs. There have been several times that the chosen recipients have requested gifts for other loved ones. For instance, Frank told of some children that only asked for new pots and pans for their mother.

In order to have sufficient resources to provide for a large number of children, Frank asks for donations until the second week in November. When the time comes to purchase the gifts, Frank and Kim shop for the exact gifts requested. Kim wraps all the gifts. They, also, provide meals for the children and their families. Frank and Kim have included their entire family in the project, in part, to help their own children see how blessed they are with material goods. Once everything is wrapped and ready, the Brownings hit the road and deliver the gifts to each child or family together.

The number of children served by “Madman Turned Santa” has increased every year. The goal this year is to top one hundred children and teens receiving very special and personalized Christmas gifts.

## PROMOTING THE ARTS IN RURAL APPALACHIA

Fine arts can spark creativity, produce exceptional aesthetic and auditory pleasure, lift observers out from the mundane, and offer many additional redeeming qualities. Unfortunately, the accessibility of fine arts to people in rural areas is limited. Those with significant resources are able to travel to nearby or distant cities to see a play or hear an orchestra, but there are still folks in rural Appalachia that have never ventured beyond the next county or two.

Program: Interviews before and after live coverage of the Richlands High School Homecoming Parade

Date: September 18, 2019

Times: 7:03 – 7:14 pm and 7:39 – 7:52 pm

Duration: 24 minutes

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

Prior to and following the Richlands High School Homecoming Parade, Ginger Branton spoke on behalf of Richlands' Citizens for the Arts, commonly known as CART. Ginger is the executive director of CART which is a community effort to bring exceptional quality performing arts to the Town of Richlands with occasional performances in nearby towns.

A portion of the interview included a brief synopsis of each scheduled performance in the 2019-2020 season. Since Ginger has been intricately involved in making the schedule and the necessary contacts with the actors and musicians for many years, she was able to share more than just the basic information regarding each performance. Her backstories were very interesting.

Ginger diligently pointed out the wonderful opportunity area citizens have to enjoy such exceptional talent in their own community. She encouraged parents to bring their children and grandparents to bring their grandchildren to see and hear the programs that are particularly directed toward younger audiences. Ginger, also, reminded listeners that the performers are available following performances to answer questions from children and adults. The approachability of the performers enhances the children's desire to exercise their own creativity.

One very interesting hometown story that Ginger shared involved a young man that had grown up in Richlands. While away at college in a metropolitan area, he told his girlfriend that he wanted to go to the opera with her. She laughed and asked him what he knew about opera... figuring that it was not likely that he had ever experienced the opera firsthand. He went on to tell her about CART and the many performances he had been privileged to attend as he was growing up in Richlands. She was impressed. Ginger noted that the young lady became his wife, although she did not claim that CART was directly responsible for the marriage.

## LIVING LIFE TO THE FULL/FORGING A LEGACY

A common thread weaves its way through the life stories of most mature Gospel singers as they reflect upon their lives and consider what is most important in life and what they hope to leave as their legacy. There is an overwhelming consistency in the observations and insights of some of the most well-known and well-loved men and women in Gospel music when they answer these life questions. To the person... their top priority, first and foremost, is living a life of faith – having a personal relationship with Jesus. Faith-filled living, along with the ability to share their faith while doing what they love – singing – has contributed to unending peace, joy, and contentment regardless of the circumstances of life.

When asked what kind of legacy they would like to leave, their answers are, again, harmonious. They want to share this “life to the full” that they have discovered by introducing family, friends, Gospel music lovers, and others to the Gospel and the faith in Jesus that has so beautifully sustained them.

Program: Interviews during the live remote broadcast at the Tazewell County Fair

Date: July 16, 2019

Guest/Time/Duration:

Larry Riddle, singer with the Primitive; 5:50 – 6:01 pm; 11 minutes

Eddie Dietz, singer with the Inspirations; 6:12 – 6:28 pm; 16 minutes

Two of Southern Gospel music’s oldest and most loved groups – the Inspirations and the Primitive – were the featured groups at this year’s Gospel Night at the Tazewell County Fair. Prior to their appearance onstage, Eddie Dietz with the Inspirations and Larry Riddle with the Primitive were interviewed individually. Both men answered numerous personal questions in addition to talking about the history of their groups and the music that has been so popular from decades ago to present.

Eddie Dietz gave his testimony of how he came to faith in the Lord Jesus and how his life and character were shaped by the faith of his family and the love and devotions shared in the home. Larry Riddle shared his testimony and talked about the importance of consistent Bible reading and prayer throughout life.

Both men have had adversity in their lives, but trusting in the Lord for strength, help, and comfort in difficult times has afforded them peace, joy, and contentment that cannot be found otherwise.

Eddie and Larry both shared their love of life and what they have felt called to do. Singing for the Lord and sharing the Gospel as they travel is a privilege from their perspective. If there is sacrifice involved, the time spent away from their families is the most difficult. They treasure time with their loved ones and make it their focus when they are able to be together.

In forging a legacy, the men both stated the importance of the Christ-centered home. Family devotions and the encouragement to have personal time in Bible study and prayer were considered to be extremely important. The value of leading by example could not be overstated. Showing love outside the home was highly valued, too. Sharing the Gospel in word and song – in order to lead others to salvation through Jesus Christ and to encourage believers in their faith – is the legacy they will leave to so many.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COMMUNITY LEADERS

Dedication and loyalty to a community by its hard-working public servants should not go unnoticed. Recognition of those that labor, sacrificially, to maintain and improve the operations of a locality or region demonstrates appreciation for their services. Acknowledgement of their contributions is important and may inspire others to get involved.

Program: Live remote from the Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival

Date: September 21, 2019

Duration: Various – 2-10 minutes each

Guests and Contributions:

Linda Singleton and Sharon Lowe, members of the Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival Committee, have labored for decades – organizing, setting up, and cleaning up – this very well-attended and popular festival. These amazing ladies will be retiring following this year's festival.

Pete Vance, local veteran, spoke on behalf of the Casey-Shortt VFW Post 9640. Pete gave a synopsis of the activities in which the local veterans participate, including serving at funerals of servicemen and women. He invited veterans in the area to come and fellowship with the members.

Jim Ray talked about his efforts, along with the Iron Titans Motorcycle Club and others, in establishing an attractive and permanent POW/MIA Memorial at the Cedar Bluff Overlook Park. It is his desire that we never forget those whose whereabouts are unknown.

John Absher, Town Manager for the Town of Cedar Bluff, and Thomas Lester, former town manager, talked about the status of the town, recent changes, and what improvements are in the works.

Rod Cury, history teacher at Richlands High School, and students Christian Plaster and Will Tarter talked about the History Club. The former trips the club has taken were discussed, and current plans to raise money for another opportunity to experience living history were shared.

## PROMOTION OF AREA EVENTS

The promotion of area events is helpful to the organizers, sponsors, local economy, vendors, and event-goers. Broadcasting basic information about locations, times, and other important specifics allows potential participants to know how to plan. Giving additional details generates interest and may improve attendance.

Program: News byte promoting the dedication of a very special mural in the Town of Tazewell that many individuals had helped to complete

Guest: Amanda Hoops, Executive Director of Tazewell Today

Dates and times: September 20, 2019 @ 7:43 am and 12:20 pm

September 21, 2019 @ 8:47 am, and

September 22, 2019 @ 8:41 am

Duration: 1 minute 53 seconds



Program: Infobits regarding the Burkes Garden Fall Festival

Guest: Sara White, spokesperson for the Burkes Garden Fall Festival

Dates: September 23 – 28, 2019, at various times throughout the day

Duration: 1 minute 23 seconds