

# WGTH PROBLEMS & PROGRAMS LIST

## FOURTH QUARTER 2012

### OCTOBER - DECEMBER

#### PROVIDING CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR NEEDY CHILDREN IN THE U.S. & INTERNATIONALLY

Children in the United States and abroad love receiving new toys, books, toiletries, and clothing items... especially if they have little or no belongings of their own. To most of us, it is unthinkable that children anywhere would have to do without what we consider necessities (toothbrushes and toothpaste, hair brushes and combs, socks and underwear, etc.). Even those of us that struggle in our current economy are rich in the eyes of third world, poverty-stricken people. Sharing from our abundance is not only appropriate. It is our moral duty.

Program: Interview regarding the preparation of shoeboxes for "Operation Christmas Child"

Date: October 12, 2012

Guest: Kathy Harris from Richlands Presbyterian Church - a collection center for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes

In an interview at halftime during the Richlands High School football game, Kathy Harris explained to the listeners about the needs of the children that would receive shoeboxes prepared by caring families in the community. Kathy represented Richlands Presbyterian Church that had collected so many shoeboxes from local communities in past years that they were made an official collection center for a much larger area.

Kathy explained that people all over the United States would be preparing shoeboxes stuffed with such things as new toys, T-shirts, socks, personal hygiene items, etc. She also listed a number of articles that could not be shipped or that would be offensive, such as plastic army men, toy guns, and any kind of liquid substances. After receiving them at the church by November 18th, there would be a tractor-trailer load of boxes taken to Boone, North Carolina, where the Samaritan's Purse organization would prepare them for distribution in the United States and throughout the world. (Operation Christmas Child is one of the ministries of Samaritan's Purse.)

Of course, Kathy invited the listeners to participate in this opportunity to bless others. The folks from her church had set a high goal for the number of boxes they would like to collect and send to Boone this year. Contact information was given for anyone with questions.

## YOUTH FITNESS AND EXERCISE

Although life "in the mountains" can be beautiful and scenic, one of several drawbacks is that there is very little level ground upon which to exercise or play. Playing fields for various sports are somewhat hard to come by... especially if the "players" are not part of an organized team in some sort of league. Therefore, many parents choose to encourage their children to participate in organized sports. If it were not for these opportunities, many children would be relegated to becoming "couch potatoes," because there are many homes without usable yards and nowhere to ride bicycles. In a region where childhood obesity is a problem and unhealthy eating habits are common, physical activity is extremely important.

Program: Interview regarding the success of a local youth soccer team

Date: October 12, 2012

Guest: Jeff Hurst, soccer coach and president of the Clinch River Soccer Association (youth soccer league)

During halftime of the Richlands High School football game, one of the area's youth soccer teams was given recognition for their winning of the championship in a tournament in Roanoke, Virginia (about a three hour drive and a much larger city). Although the players usually compete against local teams, they entered a tournament and won.

In a radio interview following the team's acknowledgement on the field, coach Jeff Hurst talked about the team's success and about the large scale league participation this year. With the number of children participating in soccer, there is the realization that a good percentage of area children are getting the kind of exercise necessary to maintain at least some degree of physical fitness.

## HIGHLIGHTING THE CULTIVATION OF THE ARTS IN YOUTH

In a "sports-minded town," the other aspects of talent and interest sometimes do not receive the recognition they deserve. The cultural refinement of our youth is often neglected in favor of athletic development. Therefore, the acknowledgement of young musicians is important to the cultivation of the arts in our community. Youthful virtuosos may be more encouraged to develop their abilities after realizing it is "kewl" to be a musician.

Program: Interview concerning the Richlands High School Blue Tornado  
Marching Band

Date: October 19, 2012

Guest: Bruce Miller, band director of the Richlands High School Blue  
Tornado Marching Band

Despite the fact that sports are dominant in popularity in the community, the local high school band has been a source of pride for our community. In years past, the band has achieved tremendous recognition and invitations to places and events of renown. In recent times, the band has been down in numbers and has attracted less interest than in its glory days. However, this year's program more closely resembled the captivating ones the community had begun to expect.

Mr. Bruce Miller, the band director for Richlands High School, spoke about the band in an interview during a Richlands High School football game. When asked about the volume of the music and the quality of the band's performance being greater than expected considering the relatively sparse number of band members, Mr. Miller complimented the talent and abilities of this year's students. He explained that there are a number of exceptionally gifted musicians in the band. He pointed out several, by name, that had solo parts in the program for the purpose of spotlighting their amazing talent.

Even through the more lean years, the band continued to perform well at their competitions and received numerous "superior" ratings and awards. Most importantly, they have achieved recognition as a "Virginia Honor Band" - a title of great distinction - almost every year for over a decade. It appears this year will be no exception.

## HAVING GREAT EXPECTATIONS FOR FOSTER CARE STUDENTS IN COLLEGE

The fact that a young person is in foster care indicates that they may be at risk for collegiate success and success in life, in general. There are so many forms and procedures necessary simply to gain entrance to a college that many students are overwhelmed from the start. Then, college life is an even greater challenge. Until recently, few students in foster care went to college and far fewer graduated.

Program: News actualities at 7:45 and 8:45 a.m.

Date: October 21, 2012

Program: Recorded interview aired at 10:05 a.m. and 7:05 p.m.

Date: October 24, 2012

Guest: Jennifer Roark, Great Expectations Counselor at Southwest Virginia Community College (SWCC)

Uplifting and enthusiastic, Jennifer Roark is perfect for her job at SWCC. She is a licensed counselor and the Great Expectations Counselor with a great deal of compassion and concern for the students in her program. In the news bits and during the interview, Jennifer explained the reason Great Expectations was begun. The statistics she quoted showed that older students still in the foster care system usually did not attend college, and those that did seldom graduated. Jennifer went on to explain that Great Expectations is a program that is offered at all of the community colleges in Virginia for the benefit of individuals ages 17 to 24 who are aging out of the foster care system. She is assisted by a team of outstanding volunteers from the community.

In some cases, she is able to help younger students in foster care - while they are in high school - to make some decisions and take actions to enhance their educational success. In fact, the high schools in the counties that feed into SWCC have been very helpful in identifying students in foster care and allowing Jennifer to connect with them prior to graduation.

Among the services provided by Great Expectations is assistance in applying for admission to college and for financial aid. Understanding that filling out all the paper work can be confusing and frustrating, Jennifer and her team offer to help students so they will not feel overwhelmed from the get go. The next step is to help each student transition well to SWCC. Knowing where their classes are and the location of all the on-campus resources, is a big plus. In addition, they familiarize the students with the

resources that are available to them in the community. These links are very valuable to their personal and educational success.

After the students are situated and the semester begins, Jennifer and her volunteers provide ongoing support to their students. Emphasis is placed on the importance of a college education toward gainful employment and achieving independence. The students are encouraged to persevere to graduation.

Jennifer welcomed any eligible listeners to participate in this specially-designed program for their educational benefit. Also, she asked the listeners to help make eligible students aware of the program and gave the necessary contact information.

### PRAYER FOR THE GREAT NEEDS OF RICHLANDS' JOBLESS COAL MINERS

With threats to the survival of the coal industry because of oppressive governmental regulations and job losses already abounding due to the failing economy, the welfare of the entire region appears to be in jeopardy. Southwest Virginians and, more specifically Richlands area residents, were hard hit with coal mine closures and job layoffs. Some may be temporary, but others seem to be permanent. Unfortunately, additional closures and layoffs are pending.

Program: Interview aired at 10:05 a.m.

Date: October 12, 2012

Program: News bits aired at 7:40 and 8:40 a.m.

Date: October 15, 2012

Guest: The Reverend Paul McNalley, spokesman for the Richlands Area Ministerial Association (RAMA) and the Richlands Area Chamber of Commerce - cosponsors of a prayer vigil to be held at 7 p.m. on October 15th for all coal miners that had suffered layoffs and their families

The Reverend Paul McNalley expressed the great concern that many of the local preachers felt regarding the welfare of the people of the Richlands and surrounding communities following large scale layoffs and the permanent closures of several nearby mines. Moved by pastoral love for their congregations and the people of the community in general, the Richlands Area Ministerial Association (RAMA) joined forces with the Richlands Area Chamber of Commerce and organized a prayer vigil - open

to all - for the purpose of asking the Lord to help unemployed coal miners find work, to provide for the families affected, and to protect the future of the entire coal mining community. McNalley gave the specifics as to the location and agenda for the 7 p.m. prayer vigil.

## HONORING VETERANS

Our nation's veterans are very deserving of great honor and recognition for the sacrifices they have made for our country, its citizens, people throughout the world, and to preserve freedom. Any recognition we give seems too small in comparison to their willingness to put themselves in harm's way, but we must show our appreciation.

Program: Infobits aired throughout the week regarding area Veterans Day weekend celebrations

Dates: November 6 - 10, 2012

Guest: Jan White, Mayor of the Town of Richlands, spokesperson for the Richlands Veterans Day Parade  
(Details of celebrations in Cedar Bluff, Tazewell, and Honaker were announced by station personnel.)

Although there is very little military presence in our community except for the National Guard and a very nice Junior ROTC program at Richlands High School, our community has a very patriotic citizenry. Town officials, teachers, pastors, and others from the local communities have put forth considerable effort to make certain that veterans are recognized and honored on Veterans Day and at other times of remembrance. Although each town recognizes veterans in a little different manner, the celebrations are special and sincere.

Throughout Veterans Day weekend, various activities were taking place and all area veterans were being welcomed to every event. Jan White, Mayor of the Town of Richlands, recorded an invitation - for all area veterans - asking them to participate in a special parade they had planned for Saturday, November 10, 2012. Other information regarding parades, breakfasts, presentations, etc. was recorded by radio station personnel and aired several days prior to the events with invitations to all veterans and, in most cases, their families.

## LEARNING ABOUT HISTORY & HERITAGE DURING THE HOLIDAYS

History is an important subject, but one that can be rather dry if not presented properly. Almost anything taught with a hands-on approach, is automatically more captivating. History and heritage are most interesting when learned from an authentic viewpoint... as if the learner was present when it was really happening. If holiday celebrations can enhance the learning, it is all the more fun.

Program: Infobits aired throughout the day about "Frontier Christmas" at Historic Crab Orchard Museum

Dates: December 3 - 7, 2012

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

Opportunities for learning local history abound because of the excellent preparation and presentations of the staff and volunteers at Historic Crab Orchard in neighboring Tazewell, Virginia. As far as local history is concerned, the museum is a gold mine of resources and information. Many individuals and families with local roots have donated or loaned historic documents, antiques of all varieties, paintings and photographs, etc. to the museum. A plethora of books written by local historians detail accounts from the first settlers of the area to more modern events. Story tellers have captured the cultural flavor of Appalachian history - and entertainment - in their special way.

Although the museum holds special events all throughout the year, their "Frontier Christmas" is one of the most popular. Some families consider it a part of their must-do Christmas traditions. The only "fee" for the event is a canned food item for the local food pantries. The interns and other volunteers wear authentic frontier clothing, cook traditional holiday foods of the time period, sing Christmas carols of the day accompanied by music from authentic instruments, and exercise hospitality to visitors by inviting them to come into their cabins for wassail, food, singing, and other merriment. They are well-versed in local history and are able to generate interesting historical facts and answer questions of a historical nature.

Charlotte Whitted, the museum's executive director, does a marvelous job inviting listeners to the event. She has a captivating way of stirring up interest through her mildly dramatic presentation in the recorded invitation and her choice of stringed instrumental music (with a dulcimer sound) for

the station to add behind her voice. You can almost imagine yourself in one of the cabins, sitting in front of a crackling fire, and singing Christmas carols with Pastor Henry Johnson's family. Of course, Charlotte manages to include all the necessary information regarding this very special event held on Friday night, December 7th this year.

### SHARING HOLIDAY MUSIC AND GOOD CHEER WITH FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS

Many of our societal problems today come from a fast-paced culture in which people spend little time developing and enjoying relationships with others. One of the many wonderful aspects of small town life is the ability to get to know a significant number of neighbors and make some really good friends. Establishing traditions that can be enjoyed while in the company of those friends and neighbors is a great way to share happiness and joy at Christmas. Since music has a sort of healing power for the soul, opportunities to fellowship and enjoy music together provide a double blessing.

Program: Broadcast of the Cedar Bluff "Concert in the Square"  
(tape delayed a short time so the performers could hear it)

Date: December 17, 2012

Guests: Performers were students from Richlands Middle School and Richlands High School singing in various grade groupings with keyboard accompaniment from and under the direction of their choir director - Terry Hall

Interviews following the singing with:

Jim McGlothlin, Town Manager of Cedar Bluff

Linda Singleton, representing the Cedar Bluff Garden Club and Singleton's Funeral Service - cosponsors of the event and providers of cookies and hot beverages (hot cider and hot chocolate)

Terry Hall, Choir Director for RHS and RMS

On an unseasonably warm evening with some sprinkles, the choirs from Richlands Middle School and Richlands High School performed in the beautifully lit gazebo in Cedar Bluff's Town Square. A goodly number of people sat on benches or stood in attendance as they cheerfully enjoyed the music from under their umbrellas. Quite a few people joined in the singing when the music was familiar to them... as most of it was. Comments were



made regarding how well the students sang and what a lovely part of the Christmas celebration the "Concert in the Square" had become. Cookies and hot beverages were consumed as friends and neighbors greeted one another. Then, because of the moisture in the air, the pleasant crowd dispersed somewhat prematurely.

Following the broadcast of the singing, Jim McGlothlin and Linda Singleton spoke of the beauty of the Christmas music, the loveliness of Town Square, and the great community in which we live. Terry Hall praised his students for coming out so faithfully, since attendance was optional. He, too, spoke of the closeness of the community and the special bond of fellowship we share.

### SPREADING AWARENESS OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

One of the most important responsibilities of any radio station is the dispersal of information about community events. Radio is a chief means of communication in our area, and many people depend on it - both to get the message out and to find out specific information regarding activities and events. Feedback from event planners indicates that radio is one of their most effective means of promotion.

Program: Infobits about the Tazewell Christmas Parade

Dates: December 3 - 8, 2012

Guest: Lee Ann Billings, spokesperson for the Town of Tazewell  
and the Tazewell Area Chamber of Commerce

Program: Live broadcast of the Honaker Christmas Parade

Date: November 19, 2012

Guest: Carolyn Puckett, Honaker Christmas Parade committee member

Honaker resident and active community leader, Carolyn Puckett, joined WGTH's Edythe Brown to add color to the float-by-float coverage of the Honaker Christmas Parade. As a member of the parade committee, Carolyn knew a great deal about the various commercial float entries, churches and civic organizations represented, high school bands, and other parade participants. Her assistance with identifying people on the floats and in the vehicles that passed was wonderful.

The Honaker Christmas Parade has the most floats, high school bands, and out-of-town commercial representation of any nearby town's parades.