

WGTH PROBLEMS & PROGRAMS LIST

THIRD QUARTER 2014

JULY - SEPTEMBER

WELLNESS & FITNESS FOR ALL

Obesity and sedentary lifestyles are quite common in Southwest Virginia and Southern West Virginia. Fitness is important to some, but the vast majority of people in the region appear to be negligent in their health habits. When observing the population, there are many that are overweight and others that look undernourished.

As people age, they tend to have more and more health problems stemming from a lack of exercise and poor dietary habits. Although there is cause to link some health issues with genetics, an attempt at improving health through fitness programs and better dietary habits would surely make a significant difference in the quality and duration of life for many area citizens. Motivating people to "move" is not an easy task.

Program: Interview during the Richlands High School football broadcast's postgame show

Date: September 19, 2014

Guests: Mike Flynt, fitness expert and oldest man to walk on as a college football player

Marty Lotito, former Richlands High School football and baseball player and health care professional

Clinch Valley Medical Center, a local hospital that has proven to be very supportive of the community and concerned with preventative health care, sponsored a visit from a couple of health and wellness professionals. Marty Lotito had spoken with health care professionals at a two day conference at the hospital. He was joined by Mike Flynt in giving a motivational speech at a pep rally prior to a Richlands High School football game, and both were taking part in a speaking engagement and setting up a booth at the Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival the next day.

During an interview after a Richlands' football game, the pair explained what they were doing in town and talked about their passion... fitness. Marty Lotito returned to his hometown by invitation from the hospital. He is the CEO of Ignite Health Group based in Franklin, Tennessee. His company offers a program, called Power Zone, to health care professionals and senior citizens. It involves training in order to establish wellness and maintain fitness... something that many health care professionals neglect while focusing on the care of their patients.

Marty introduced Mike Flynt, who is also a professional fitness advocate. He frequently partners with Marty as a motivational speaker and works with Clinch Valley Medical Center's parent company... Lifepoint Hospitals. Mike, now very fit at 59, is a senior phenom. At the age of 50, he decided to go back to Sul Ross College to finish his education and try to make the football team as a walk on. This was 37 years after he had gone there to school and starred on the football team through his junior year. After finding that he, indeed, had one year of eligibility remaining; he made the team and played on special teams and as linebacker becoming the oldest player ever to accomplish such a feat. He has written a book, called The Senior, and plans are in the works for a movie based on the book.

SPECIAL ELECTION COVERAGE

The controversial resignation of Virginia State Senator Phillip Puckett made necessary a special election to fill the seat he vacated. There was tremendous statewide attention, and a fair share of national, paid to this election due to the fact that its outcome had potential to shift the balance of power in the State Senate from the Democratic Party to the Republican Party. The wrath of Governor Terry McAuliffe and other Democratic Party leaders toward Senator Puckett, following his announcement, was widely publicized and the heat continued through election day and beyond. Both parties' headquarters in Richmond joined forces with local party leaders and put a lot of time and money into the 38th Senatorial District election.

Republican A. Benton Chafin, already a delegate in the State Legislature, led the race in the polling from the beginning. Mike Hymes, the Democratic candidate, was very aggressive in his campaigning. Rick Mullins, an independent, also ran with some passion.

Program: Election Night Coverage and Special Election Reports
Dates: August 19 and 20, 2014

Ron Brown reported until the winner was announced on Tuesday night and offered special, detailed reports adjacent to the news broadcasts the following morning at 6:35 am, 7:40 am and 8:40 am.

Given the importance of this special election - not just to the 38th Senatorial District but to the entire State of Virginia - the outcome was of keen interest to a large portion of the listeners. The unusually high voter turnout was evidence of the concern people had for this election. Not only were listeners curious about who won, but the precinct-by-precinct and county-by-county returns sparked interest as well.

PROMOTION OF AREA CELEBRATIONS & FESTIVALS

Promotion of area celebrations and festivals helps to increase awareness of the exact locations, dates, times, parking suggestions, and other specifics involved. Public interest is increased as listeners hear about various activities and entertainment that are associated with a particular event. Memories are made as friends and family participate together in community functions. Also, community pride is bolstered by events that are well-managed and diligently executed.

Additionally, large scale participation in local events - by home folk and by people from outside the area - makes a fairly significant contribution to sponsors and vendors. These may include: individuals, schools, churches, civic organizations, and businesses. The local economy, in general, usually benefits from such events.

Program: Infobits regarding the area Fourth of July celebrations
Dates: July 1 - until the actual date of the event (Area events were staggered on different days in order to allow better attendance and more opportunities for folks to enjoy the celebrations.)

Guest: Charlotte Whitted for the Historic Crab Orchard Museum celebration and re-enactment on July 4, 2014

Other area Fourth of July celebrations were promoted by infobits produced by radio announcers on behalf of the local communities of Tazewell, Honaker, and Lebanon.

Program: Infobits promoting and inviting listeners to the Tazewell County Fair

Dates: August 3 - 8, 2014

Guests: Bill Patton, Everett Cox, and T. J. Safewright Keen - members of the Tazewell County Fair Committee

Program: Infobits regarding the Tazewell County Airport Open House

Dates: Between July 21 and August 16, 2014

Guests: Jerry McReynolds, Tazewell County Airport Manager Jim French, assistant to the manager and co-organizer

Program: Infobits inviting listeners to the Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival and giving important specifics

Dates: September 15 - 20, 2014

Guest: Linda Singleton, spokesperson for the Heritage Festival

Program: Infobits regarding the Burkes Garden Festival

Dates: September 22 - 27, 2014

Guest: Mike Bell, spokesperson for the festival

A SAFE PLACE FOR TEENS TO HANGOUT & FIND THEIR NICHE

In American culture today, most activities and career development assistance for youth seem to be directed toward the athletic or the college bound and highly intelligent. What about the youth that like more nontraditional sports and activities?

What about the ones that do not fit into society's mold and may tend to "fall between the cracks" at school? Where is their safe haven?

Program: Announcements regarding "Teen Venture" -
one inviting youth and another asking for volunteers
Dates: August and September 2014 throughout the day

Under the leadership of Dr. Glenn Harrison, the Richlands community transformed a former police department and town hall building into an amazing youth center designed, specifically, to cater to those that do not follow all the norms. There is an indoor skate park, a computer room, a well-equipped music room, a radio broadcasting room, a pottery-making room, etc. The intent is to provide a place for the youth that are not high school athletes band members, academic team members, and the like... to have opportunities to participate in new experiences and learn new skills.

The participants have to agree to certain reasonable conditions. They are encouraged to choose some hobby available there and join with the others interested in the same things. Together they work to develop a plan for the use of a particular offering at the center. After that, they are encouraged to take ownership of it. All this takes place under adult supervision and guidance is given as needed.

Area youth, their families, and the community-at-large need to be aware of the facility, known as "Teen Venture." Teen Venture is a labor of love with many man hours and dollars already poured into it. For it to be underused would be a shame.

The announcements contained information about Teen Venture, including contact information. The director, Laura Brown, wanted people to be able to call her for more information or to volunteer. The hours of operation, basic requirements, available resources, and the need for volunteers are all important pieces of information that were included in the announcements.

HELP FOR THOSE SUFFERING FROM ADDICTIONS

Our region is plagued by an abnormally high frequency of drug addiction, and alcoholism is a real problem. However, there are other troublesome addictions that are not necessarily related to substance abuse. Gambling and pornography addictions are two examples of other types of addictions for which people often seek a cure. Regardless of the nature of the addiction, assistance is almost always required in order to achieve victory over its grip.

Program: Interview regarding Fisher House Ministries

Date: July 28, 2014 @ 11:06 am

Guest: Ryder Richardson, founder of Fisher House Ministries

Ryder Richardson is the founder and executive director of Fisher House Ministries. The mission of the ministries is to aid those who want to breakaway from the bondage their addiction. Most often, this requires relocation to a distant place in order to avoid negative influences that usually exist in the location where the addiction originated. Removal from fellow addicts and others that may have enabled the addiction problem helps with the rehabilitation.

Ryder gave his personal testimony regarding his own addiction story. He told how he was released from his bondage to drugs through the power of the Holy Spirit that came to him when he surrendered his life to the Lord Jesus Christ. After his transforming experience, he determined to serve the Lord in a full-time capacity by helping those who are walking the same dark pathway he used to walk. Thus, Fisher House Ministries was created. Along with his wife, Amanda, they help those in need, including transportation to recovery centers.

In addition to discussing the various aspects of the ministries already begun, Ryder announced the upcoming Grand Opening of the Fisher House Ministries Thrift Store. Because of the significant costs involved in transporting those with addictions to rehabilitation facilities in other locations, the thrift store is being opened as a means of support. Ryder encouraged listeners to donate any new or gently used items and to shop as they desire.

Program: Grand Opening of the Fisher House Ministries Thrift Store

Date: August 1, 2014 from 11:05-11:40 am

Guests: Ryder Richardson, founder of Fisher House Ministries
Ben Chafin and Israel O'Quinn, Delegates to the Virginia General Assembly

Jan White, Mayor of the Town of Richlands
Mary Ann Strong, Richlands businesswoman
Other community leaders

The Grand Opening of Fisher House Ministries Thrift Store gave a platform to those in the community who support the mission of Fisher House. Community concern regarding the widespread substance abuse problem and appreciation for the work that Ryder and Amanda Richardson have done and intend to continue were the recurring topics of those that spoke.

THE NEXT BEST THING TO BEING THERE

Many of our listeners have to miss all or part of area events due to work or other commitments. Other listeners are bedridden. When listeners depend on WGTH to bring the action home to them, it needs to be "the next best thing to being there."

Program: Tazewell County Airport Open House (live remote)

Date: August 16, 2014 from 10 am to 12 noon

Several of the Guests: Jerry McReynolds, airport manager

Jim French, assistant to the manager and co-organizer

Jerry and Jim discussed the activities of the day and the planning that went into this family-friendly day.

James Pruitt, military veteran

Mr. Pruitt gave a recap of the opening ceremonies and the participation of VFW Post #9640.

Brian Hieatt, Sheriff of Tazewell County

Sheriff Hieatt talked about the Sheriff's Department activities at the event that day. Processing children's I.D. cards was the primary activity of the day.

Among other topics, he discussed safety procedures that should be taken as precautionary measures.

Program: Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival (live remote)

Date: September 20, 2014 from 11 am to 2 pm

Guests: Linda Singleton, Chairperson of the Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival and member of the Cedar Bluff Business & Professional Association

Sharon Lowe, member of the Festival Committee

Linda and Sharon (separately) dispersed a great deal of helpful information about the festival. They ran down the schedule of events along with the times and locations of each one. Hints about how to successfully navigate the festival were given. Both general and specific comments were made about the number and types of vendors at the festival this year.

Jim McGlothlin, Cedar Bluff Town Manager

Jerry Herron, Mayor of the Town of Cedar Bluff

Jim and Jerry talked about the town they love... its history and special features.

Don Meadows, representing Marine Corps and all veterans

Don reminded the listeners of the importance of honoring veterans and current military service men and women. He explained several specific ways that people could help veterans.

Pete Vance, representative from VFW Post #9640

Pete talked about the importance of veterans spending time together and being certain they are receiving the benefits they so deserve. He invited local veterans of foreign wars to join the VFW.

Lloyd Combs, writer

Lloyd reminisced about local sports and told several interesting anecdotes as he promoted his book about sports history... especially in neighboring Buchanan County.

Paul "Slick" Cook, press box announcer for Richlands

High School football games, and prominent citizen Slick commented on local sports, particularly highlighting the exceptionally exciting game played the night prior.

Mike Abel, representative for the Tazewell County
Historical Society

Mike talked about the workings of the Tazewell
County Historical Society. He gave the location,
hours they are open, and contact information. He
explained what was available at their booth.

Confederate soldier, acting the part of his ancestor
Lemoyne Hendrick, actor portraying Abraham Lincoln
Danny Culver, actor portraying Ulysses S. Grant

During separate interviews, these three gentlemen
remained in character and answered questions
regarding the historical events and important
decisions in which they took part. They talked about
the intense difficulties of their times, but the hope
that arose as the nation worked to reunite.

Benny McGhee and Tony Horn, two members of the
“Jubalaires,” a local gospel quartet

Benny and Tony talked about the privilege of being
able to share the gospel in song and in testimonies in
churches and other kinds of venues. They talked
about recent and future engagements and the songs
they had recently written.

Shelby Jewell, founder of the “Bluegrass Kinsmen” and
outstanding local musician

The 2014 Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival was
dedicated to Shelby Jewell. His contributions to
Bluegrass music are appreciated far beyond our
local community. He is well-known in the industry
and has played with numerous other well-respected
musicians. The announcement of the dedication and
presentation of a special plaque were broadcast live
as they took place in the gazebo at the Cedar Bluff
Town Square.