

WGTH ISSUES & PROGRAMS LIST

SECOND QUARTER 2022

APRIL – JUNE

IMPORTANT ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN THE RECENT LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Constituents in southwest Virginia need to stay abreast of issues addressed and decisions made by the Virginia General Assembly in the State Capitol of Richmond, Virginia. With many people suffering from economic hardship, the state budget has a significant impact on individuals, families, and businesses. Other issues that affect the state, and those of particular concern to southwest Virginians, should be made known to area citizens by their representatives.

Program: Recorded interview with Senator Travis Hackworth

Dates aired: June 27, 2022 @ 11:34 am, and June 28, 2022 @ 7:07 pm

Duration: 30 minutes

Guest: Senator Travis Hackworth, representing the 38th Senatorial District of Virginia

Senator Travis Hackworth, representing the 38th Senatorial District of Virginia, was invited to present listeners with a recap of the recently completed General Assembly legislative session. Following a brief description of the counties and portions of counties included in the 38th District, the senator clarified the redistricting changes that would be taking place in the future and how that would affect the area he serves. Several of the counties and portions of counties that are now part of his district would move out while several others would be included. He assured the listeners that he would continue to be available to assist his former constituents in any way he could after the changes take place.

He said that the state senators and delegates from southwest Virginia are nick-named the “Southwest Delegation,” and representatives from other parts of the state commented that they were a little envious about the unity they saw in the Southwest Delegation.

Senator Hackworth gave a recap of some of the most important issues faced by legislators this spring... not the least of which was the budget for the Commonwealth. He reported that the budget includes tax relief for Virginians along with increases in funds for law enforcement and a ten percent pay raise for teachers. Other budgetary allowances were, also, mentioned.

Among several important issues faced by the Virginia General Assembly were those related to mental health. One difficulty that had been an ongoing problem for areas with limited law enforcement officers is the amount of time an officer was tied up with the transport of an individual to a mental facility for diagnosis and, then, to a state mental health facility. The process, often, required 48 to 72 hours of the officer’s time... potentially, leaving an area unprotected by its assigned law enforcement officer(s). The problem was dealt with by designating additional funds for mental health facilities for the recruitment and retention of mental health professionals to assist with this process.

When asked about legislation of particular interest to citizens in the 38th District, Senator Hackworth spoke about aid that was being sent to the Hurley area... where severe flooding had occurred in August 2021 and where much federal funding was denied. He talked about going to Hurley with Delegate Will Morefield. They were able to help some elderly people get out of their homes and witness a swift water rescue.

Other topics of interest were discussed... including some anticipated issues facing the General Assembly during the next session. The interview was recorded within hours of the United States Supreme Court decision overturning Roe vs. Wade. How that decision may affect abortion-related legislation in Virginia was discussed.

PROVIDING CARE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

There are many area citizens in their golden years that are not living with the means to make their status appear “golden.” Some of them have no family to care for them while others have family that are unable to care for them due to physical and/or financial limitations. Most tragically, there are seniors whose families ignore their existence and refuse to assist them.

Program: Six pre-recorded interview segments regarding the Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens (AASC) and the upcoming AASC “2022 Spring Fling”

Dates: May 13 – 21, 2022, at various times throughout the day

Durations: From 53 seconds to 1 minute 50 seconds

Guests: Brian Beck, CEO In-training at AASC, and Caleb Perkins, Executive Assistant at AASC

The Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens (AASC) serves the needs of senior citizens in four Virginia counties... Tazewell, Russell, Buchanan, and Dickenson. AASC hosts an annual “Spring Fling” open house in which the community is invited to celebrate the agency, find out what services are being offered to seniors, enjoy the participating vendors’ goods, and participate in a health fair. (This year’s health fair was scaled down compared to most years, because the hospital could not participate as in years past.)

Topics covered in the segments included some directly related to the Spring Fling and others that were informational regarding some of the many services rendered by AASC:

*Brian Beck did two segments about the Spring Fling.

One featured the activities that were planned for the open house on May 21st. He talked about feeding the seniors that would be transported to AASC from the Community Nutrition Centers in each of the counties.

There would be bingo with prizes and various vendors, as well as, a small health fair. He invited people from the community to the open house and gave directions for those who were unfamiliar with the location. Brian, also, mentioned that May is Older Americans' Month. In the second segment, Brian talked about AASC's desire to salute veterans by highlighting Armed Forces Day. A very important part of the open house is, at the beginning, when the local VFW Post 9640 has a lovely ceremony. It includes an honor guard, raising the American flag, and leading all participants in the Pledge of Allegiance. A special guest sings the National Anthem. In addition, Brian directed listeners as to how to park and receive shuttle service to the AASC building since the parking lot is used for vendors and other activities.

*Brian Beck focused on some of the special services provided by AASC. According to Brian, interaction with others is an important part of elder care. He spoke of AASC's intergenerational program in which seniors spend time interacting with young children. Also mentioned were the adult day care facilities and the newest site located in Falls Mills. Art, bingo, eating meals together, and other activities in which seniors enjoy participating with others, all improve the seniors' quality of life. Improving their clients' quality of life is AASC's chief goal.

*Brian Beck responded to a question about seniors' support from family members. He said that this area has many proud seniors that try to be self-reliant and not have to depend on others for support. The agency tries to help them in this effort. In those situations in which grandparents and great-grandparents are raising their grandchildren and great-grandchildren while barely being able to care for themselves, the agency does all it can to help both generations.

*Caleb Perkins shared that part of his responsibilities at AASC include being the In-Home Care Coordinator. He listed some of the specific programs that are available, including the Market Fresh program that helps seniors fulfill their nutritional needs and this summer's Senior

Cool Care program that provides fans and various types of air conditioners for those that meet the qualifications.

*Caleb Perkins dedicated a segment to the job openings available at AASC. Because the variety of services provided is so vast, people with many different skills are needed to care for the clients and the various facilities. Nurses (LPN's and RN's), personal care aides, transportation drivers and vehicle maintenance techs, a mechanic, and an IT analyst are among those that AASC is now hiring. Caleb explained how to apply for any of the aforementioned positions.

PROMOTING AREA EVENTS

Making listeners aware of the dates, times, locations, entertainment schedules, etc., for area events has always been an important public service responsibility of the radio station. Over the past two and one-half years, COVID cancellations were prevalent. Several events have yet to return while others may never come back.

It would appear that most people are welcoming the return of area events and festivals as a sign of renewed pleasure and a regaining of some sort of normalcy. Sharing information about annual events and announcing the reopening of area events allows listeners to participate in all the activities for which they are available. Their participation, in turn, insures the success of the various events and helps the individual vendors, as well, thereby boosting the economic situation and the morale of the entire community.

Program: Infobits featuring specific information about area events and played throughout the day on the dates listed

Event: Honaker Redbud Festival – the first one since 2019

Dates: April 2 – 10, 2022

Guests and Durations:

- *Jim Taylor – Car and Truck Show – 32 seconds
- *Jim Baldwin – Bird Walk – 73 seconds
- *C. H. Wallace – Canoe Race – 67 seconds
- *Josh Barrett – Entertainment and Fun Day – 1 minute 20 seconds
- *Yvonne Dye – Easter Egg Hunt – 30 seconds
- *Ann Taylor – Arts and Crafts Show/Yard Sale – 53 seconds
- *Diane Fuller – Pet Show – 1 minute

Event: Richlands Summerfest

Dates: June 14 – 25, 2022 Duration: 36 seconds/70 times

- *Andrea Perkins for the community organization “Ramp Up Richlands”

Event: Independence Day Celebrations all held on July 2, 2022

Dates: June 27 – 30, 2022

Guests and Durations:

- *Josh Barrett for the Honaker Lions Club – 33 seconds
- *Vanessa Rebentisch, Executive Director for Tazewell Today – 1 minute 23 seconds
- *Joyce from the Jewell Ridge Community Center – 34 seconds

HONORING THE MEMORY OF A COMMUNITY LEADER, SINGER, AND GOSPEL MUSIC PROMOTER

One of the most beloved citizens of Russell County, Sam Whited, went to Heaven on April 26, 2021, at the age of 73. His departure left a void in the Lebanon and Honaker communities where the impact of Sam's presence was undeniable. Sam was an insurance agent for more than four decades, but his real impact was his service to his community. He was a popular Southern Gospel music singer and promoter... having sung with several groups and ministering solo from time to time. He served as a deacon in his church, was at one time a Minister of Music in his church, and helped to start several new churches in various parts of Russell County. Additionally, he was a former member of the Russell County Industrial Development Authority.

For years, Sam took on the responsibility for the Gospel Night at the Russell County Fair... booking the groups, overseeing the setup and care of the groups during the event, and acting as the Master of Ceremonies. It was through his gospel music promotion connections that Sam befriended many of the most famous artists in Southern Gospel music and became close friends with individuals and groups from other places.

Sam's warm and jovial personality, his love for people, and his willingness to help those in need attracted folks to him. He was a big man in stature and in his community. Honoring Sam's memory was something that his family and many friends desired to do. Knowing his love for Southern Gospel music, it seemed befitting to honor Sam with a Southern Gospel music festival.

Program: The 1st Annual Sam Whited Memorial Gospel Music Festival
– live remote broadcast from the Russell County Government Center in Lebanon, Virginia

Date: June 4, 2022

Guests and Durations:

*Kevin Spencer, internationally known Southern Gospel music artist – 7 minutes

*Tony Dodi, Mayor of the Town of Lebanon – 10 minutes

*Sharon Martin, Owner of the Lebanon Burger King, one of the event sponsors – 5 minutes

*Marissa Bostic, singer with Servant's Heart, formerly Servant's Heart Trio in which Sam Whited sang with Marissa and her husband, Aaron – 13 minutes

*Eddie Street, local evangelist, singer, and song writer – 17 minutes

*Aaron Bostic, event coordinator and singer with Servant's Heart along with his wife, Marissa – 10 minutes

*Michael Combs, internationally known Southern Gospel artist – 27 minutes

*Sam's daughters, Penny Farmer and Jamie Campbell, spoke on behalf of their mother, Becky, and their other two sisters, Ginger Hale and Jessica Stevens – 10 minutes

*Trae & Whitney (Trae Turner and Whitney Smith), a brother and sister pair of Southern Gospel artists – 11 minutes

*Darren Lore and his daughter, Fayth, of the Lore Family gospel music singers – 11 minutes

*Susan Whisnant of The Whisnants, a well-known Southern Gospel group – 8 minutes

*Jeff Whisnant of The Whisnants – 5 minutes

*James & Starla Dean, a well-known husband and wife duo in Southern Gospel music – 13 minutes

During their interviews, most of the above, spoke about Sam Whited and the wonderful man he was. Personal stories were shared regarding his exceptional hospitality, his great sense of humor, and his many contributions to Southern Gospel music in the Russell County area. Of course, the most touching and personal accounts of interaction with Sam were those of his daughters, Penny and Jamie. All the girls adored their daddy. His consistently kind and generous heart was, repeatedly, emphasized.

RENOVATIONS, UPGRADES, AND SUMMER ACTIVITIES IN THE TOWN OF LEBANON

Positive change in a community, including renovations, the building of modern facilities, and an increase in family friendly activities and events, can boost community pride and interaction between citizens. This is, especially, true when the emphasis on modernization is placed on activities and facilities that welcome its citizens to gather together.

Program: Live remote interview at the 1st Annual Sam Whited Memorial Gospel Music Festival

Date: June 4, 2022

Duration: 10 minutes

Guest: Tony Dodi, Mayor of the Town of Lebanon

During a live remote at the 1st Annual Sam Whited Memorial Gospel Music Festival, Mayor Tony Dodi, of the Town of Lebanon, Virginia, welcomed listeners to come out for a beautiful afternoon and evening of gospel music. In the interview with Mayor Dodi, it was noted that Lebanon was looking quite attractive and had made some significant improvements in sprucing up some older facilities and building some new ones. He responded with a description of some of the recent upgrades and renovations, attention to Lebanon's public parks and recreational facilities, and their new Community Center. The community center has a nice gym with bleachers and other rooms with multi-functional use.

Mayor Dodi, also, emphasized a lineup of summer fun gatherings, including:

*The 3rd Annual “Cedar Fest” (Lebanon’s premiere festival) – June 10 – 11 – featuring entertainment, food trucks, vendors, etc.

*The 4th of July Celebration – July 4 – featuring a day full of fun activities, entertainment, and vendors leading up to their outstanding fireworks display

*The 2nd Annual “Big Rig Showdown” Truck Show – July 29 – 30 – featuring big rigs, a truck parade, food and musical entertainment

*The Annual Beach Party – August 13 – an event in which the entire back portion of the parking lot at the Lebanon Town Park is covered with sand for everyone’s beach enjoyment. Of course, there will be food and music, too.