

WGTH ISSUES & PROGRAMS LIST

FOURTH QUARTER 2023

OCTOBER – DECEMBER

RECOGNITION OF VETERANS

The recognition of those that have served our country in order to defend freedom in the United States and abroad is a privilege and a duty of both the radio station and the community. Only those that have served... and the families that were left behind... can know the sacrifices that took place. Organized, authentic demonstrations of appreciation toward those on active duty and those that have participated in military service in the past, serve to honor veterans and encourage patriotism.

Program: Prerecorded Special: “Roll Call” (to honor area veterans & POW/MIA’s and to invite eligible area veterans to join the local VFW post)

Dates/Times:

Duration: 30 minutes

November 10, 2023 @ 11:30 am and 7:06 pm

November 11, 2023 @ 2:05 pm

November 12, 2023 @ 6:06 pm

Guests: Jim Ray, local veteran & outstanding Veteran and POW/MIA advocate
Phil Blankenship, spokesperson for VFW Post 9640

In conjunction with Veterans Day, local veteran and POW/MIA advocate, Jim Ray, directed and helped to produce a broadcast in which veterans were recognized and honored. Particular acknowledgement was given to military service men and women from nearby towns and counties. Area residents were offered the opportunity to place flags at the distinguished POW/MIA Memorial at the Cedar Bluff Overlook Park to honor living and deceased family members and friends that had served in the military. Jim Ray read the same honorees’ names in a very respectful roll call at the end of the broadcast.

The program began with Jim interviewing Phil Blankenship who spoke on behalf of VFW Post 9640. Phil explained that VFW members must be veterans that

have served in overseas conflicts. He described the activities in which the VFW members participate and invited those eligible to join them for “coffee and life” discussions on Wednesday mornings. Phil gave the location of VFW Post 9640 and contact information for the post and Commander Mike Hickman. Phil, proudly, stated the VFW motto: “No One Does More for Veterans.”

Also included in the broadcast were three patriotic songs that were sung by a popular local quartet, The Jubalaires. Jim Ray is one of the members of the quartet.

ELECTION COVERAGE

WGTH has offered precinct-by-precinct results for elections at all levels, for many years, as returns come in and throughout election night, as well as, during the following morning news reports. Elections almost always draw a great deal of interest... and in this year’s election, local offices were part of the mix.

Additionally this year... candidates in Southwest Virginia that were running for office at the state level were running in newly assigned districts. This was due to redistricting in Virginia that was based on the most recent census results.

Program: Special election night coverage and election returns announced the next day during state and local news reports

Dates/Times/Durations: November 7, 2023, each half hour: 7:30 pm – 10:10 pm
November 8, 2023 @ 6:35 am, 7:35 am, and 8:35 am Durations: 5 – 15 minutes

Providing detailed election night coverage has been a top priority at WGTH. Recapping the previous night’s results during the morning state and local news on the following day and providing precinct-by-precinct returns have provided listeners with rapid results and interesting details. This coverage is especially appreciated during local elections as the precinct returns, usually, come in quickly... allowing listeners to be aware of winners early in the evening.

Ron Brown provides election results every half hour... lasting from, approximately, five to fifteen minutes (as needed)... recapping the highlights and adding new information, as well as, giving precinct-by-precinct returns for the local towns and counties. In addition to information regarding the elections that directly affect area residents, Ron reports other interesting election news throughout Virginia, neighboring states, and the nation.

PROMOTION OF AREA EVENTS

Local events provide: family-friendly entertainment, opportunities to see friends and make new ones, community pride, and other benefits according to the specific type of event. Some area events allow for economic boosts for businesses, organizations, and individuals when they are able to market their wares or raise awareness of the services they provide. Additionally, the surrounding business establishments, especially restaurants, benefit from the spectators and participants that are drawn to the events.

The promotion of these events is of great importance to their success. Radio is an excellent source for effective promotion. Listeners can hear all the essential information: date, time(s), location, best available parking and shuttle services, etc. More specific details can be added by those in charge of the events as desired. As often as possible, information is recorded by those most familiar with the event.

Program: Prerecorded Infobits regarding specific events (listed below)

Times: Aired throughout the day

*Veterans Day information regarding the honoring of area veterans in the Town of Tazewell, including a special parade

Dates: October 31 – November 5, 2023

Duration: 33 seconds, aired 20 times

Guest: Jerry McReynolds, Veteran and spokesperson for Tazewell's Parade

*Honaker Christmas Parade information for a parade that draws many spectators from out-of-town due to its size and inclusion of some out-of-town participants

Dates: November 14 – 20, 2023

Duration: 45 seconds, aired 30 times

Guest: Josh Barrett, spokesperson for the Honaker Christmas Parade Committee

*Town of Richlands Christmas Parade promoting the live coverage on WGTH, as well as, the essential information regarding the parade for those planning to attend

Dates: November 27 – December 1, 2023

Duration: 31 seconds, aired 23 times

Done in-house by Edythe Brown

*Town of Tazewell Christmas Parade and Christmas Market information for a special Main Street Christmas outdoor market event and parade

Dates: November 28 – December 2, 2023

Duration: 50 seconds, aired 22 times

Guest: Vanessa Rebentisch, Executive Director/CEO of Tazewell Today, an “initiative” with the goal of revitalizing an attractive Main Street community

*”Frontier Christmas” at the Historic Crab Orchard Museum and Pioneer Park in Tazewell with detailed information and an audio invitation to come out and enjoy Christmas as it would have been celebrated in pioneer days with volunteers presenting authentic clothing, foods, music, crafts, etc.

Dates: November 27 – December 1, 2023

Duration: 2 minutes, 17 seconds, aired 30 times

Guest: Cynthia Farmer, Executive Director at Historic Crab Orchard Museum and Pioneer Park

*”Christmas in Our Town” singing in the Town Square in the Town of Cedar Bluff, an annual event... complete with hot chocolate, cider, and cookies... this year, featuring local vocalist John David Cruely

Dates: December 8 – 14, 2023

Duration: 1 minute 12 seconds

Guest: John David Cruely, the featured vocalist

GOOD ADVICE FOR HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS, MARRIAGES, & FAMILIES ... EMPHASIZING RELATIONAL, MENTAL, AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH

News reports of domestic violence, social media bullying, random acts of terrorism, and many inexplicable physical and social media attacks on individuals give evidence of a society in rapid decline. Psychologists point to the deterioration of the foundational unit of the family as a major factor contributing to relational, mental, and emotional health issues and to the woes of society, in general. In some cases, professional intervention is crucial to attempt to restore healthy minds. However, for most individuals and families, acting on good relational and marital advice goes a long way toward establishing stable families and good mental health.

Program: James Dobson Family Commentary

Dates/Times/Duration: Weekdays at 5:08 pm (approximately)/90 seconds

Host/Speaker: Dr. James Dobson, internationally renowned psychologist, author, and speaker

James Dobson Family Commentary is a 90-second broadcast aired on WGTH on weekday afternoons around 5:08 pm. In only a minute and a half, expert psychologist, Dr. James Dobson, shares rich nuggets of sound advice on a wide variety of topics. This common sense truth shared in order to bolster marriages, firmly establish families, offer parenting advice, and help individuals navigate through life in the best way possible – if applied – has tremendous outcomes and offers positivity in an increasingly negative culture.

Examples of specific programs:

October 3, 2023 – “The Temper Tantrums”

October 5, 2023 – “Fetal Alcohol Syndrome”

October 6, 2023 – “Dates with Dad”

October 12, 2023 – “The Need for Self-Respect”

October 23, 2023 – “A Father’s Influence”

October 27, 2023 – “The Pressure to Conform”

November 2, 2023 – “Infant Bonding”

November 6, 2023 – “Quality Time vs. Quantity Time”

November 7, 2023 – “Manners and Courtesies”

November 8, 2023 – “The Power of Affirmation”

November 9, 2023 – “Pettiness in Marriage”

November 14, 2023 – “Communication in the Family”

ENHANCING COMMUNITY EVENTS THROUGH LIVE BROADCASTS

Bringing attention to community events and making a way for those that cannot attend to “be there” vicariously, allow a radio station to enhance community events and community spirit. Listeners have expressed appreciation when, for whatever reason, they have not been able to be at an event in person and WGTH has broadcast a live description. Others have said they have their radios on, as they are viewing the action taking place, in order to receive additional information.

Program: Live broadcast of the Town of Richlands Christmas Parade

Date/Time/Duration: December 1, 2023, starting @ 6:10 pm/47 minutes

Announcers: Jason Lockhart, Ron Brown, and Edythe Brown

The Town of Richlands Christmas Parade is an annual event that, typically, includes quite a number of area residents. This year, there seemed to be an unusually sizeable number of participants. The theme was “Elf on the Shelf.” WGTH has provided “float-by-float” coverage of the Richlands Christmas Parade for many years.

There was a very special participant in this year’s parade that generated a lot of excitement. The Grand Marshal, Noah Spencer, has become a Hometown Hero of sorts. Noah performed on NBC’s “The Voice,” and advanced to the next round. He was taken on Team Reba, but was eliminated in the playoffs. Locals still love him, though. WGTH acknowledged his accomplishments as his car passed.

Among the many other participants on floats, in cars, on horseback, and those marching were: the Richlands High School JROTC Color Guard, the ever-popular Richlands High School Blue Tornado Marching Band, various youth and middle school and high school athletic teams, a goodly number of area churches and businesses, motorcycles, monster trucks, and an adorable “mini” monster truck. As much description was given as time would allow.

