

WGTH PROBLEMS & PROGRAMS LIST
THIRD QUARTER 2017
JULY – SEPTEMBER

HEALTHCARE IN SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

The entire nation is struggling with issues regarding healthcare; however, regional suffering due to the so-called “Affordable Care Act” seems more pronounced in an area where many of the citizens endure economic hardship and many of the existing businesses are financially strapped. Some larger businesses that employed a goodly number of workers have shut down, apparently due to insufficient profit margins related to the high costs of health insurance.

Program: Broadcast of an interview following a Town Hall Meeting that was held at the American Legion in Tazewell, VA

Date: August 17, 2017 @ 8:40 am, following the news

Guest: Senator Mark Warner

Program: Pre-recorded broadcast of a Town Hall Meeting held at the American Legion in Tazewell, VA

Date: August 21, 2017 @ 11:05 am

Guest: Senator Mark Warner

In a town hall meeting held in Tazewell, Virginia, and in an interview with April Trent from WGTH, Senator Mark Warner addressed the hot topic of healthcare. Although some of his comments were in reference to the Affordable Care Act in general, he expressed concern for the affordability and the availability of healthcare in rural regions. Answering specific questions about the Lee County Hospital closure and the phenomenal numbers of patients that turnout for the Remote Area Medical (RAM) clinics in Wise County, Warner had several recommendations. He mentioned the need for greater use of telemedicines, new systems deliveries, and expanded Medicaid in rural areas.

In order to address some of the particular flaws in the Affordable Care Act, Senator Warner said that there were several possible options that could help to improve people's ability to find affordable insurance. He mentioned a few, including: allowing the purchase of insurance plans across state lines, creating several individual and family plan options that could be scaled down to best serve the particular needs of the insured at a relatively minimal cost, and starting new reinsurance pools. In any event, Warner stated that everyone should have access to affordable health care.

INFRASTRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS IN SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

Improvements in the infrastructure of Southwest Virginia would likely aid in promoting the region as an ideal location for new businesses and manufacturing opportunities. Whereas certain types of infrastructure issues have been greatly improved or modified in Southwest Virginia and are probably competitive with many other regions, there are other issues that still need to be addressed. For example, technology has advanced to the point where the availability of uninterrupted cellular service and high-speed communications networks are required by many companies and corporations. Advances have been made in telecommunications over the years, but the region must supply state-of-the-art technology now – and in the future – in order to attract lucrative businesses.

Program: Broadcast of an interview following a Town Hall Meeting held at the American Legion in Tazewell, VA

Date: August 17, 2017 @ 8:40 am

Guest: Senator Mark Warner

Program: Pre-recorded broadcast of a Town Hall Meeting held at the American Legion in Tazewell, VA

Date: August 21, 2017 @ 11:05 am

Guest: Senator Mark Warner

As an IT businessman prior to serving as a United States Senator, Mark Warner is aware of the benefits of a well-developed telecommunications network to any region. He stated that it was not fair that Northern Virginia and Richmond should have the advantage that they do over a rural region largely because they can offer advanced IT access to potential businesses. He expressed dismay that one of the first areas of budget cutting was that of infrastructure.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

Economic development is the heartbeat of any region. The prosperity of the citizens depends on it. Business as usual has not been working as well as it did in the past for Southwest Virginians. New and innovative ways to develop and enhance the economy of the region must be found for the region to survive and, possibly, to thrive.

Program: Broadcast of an interview following a Town Hall Meeting held at the American Legion in Tazewell, VA

Date: August 17, 2017 @ 8:40 am

Guest: Senator Mark Warner

Program: Pre-recorded broadcast of a Town Hall Meeting held at the American Legion in Tazewell, VA

Date: August 21, 2017 @ 11:05 am

Guest: Senator Mark Warner

Senator Mark Warner answered the questions of concerned citizens at a town hall meeting followed by an interview with April Trent for WGTH. The question of economic development is pretty standard due to its importance in any region. Senator Warner shared some ideas that he felt may be worth considering for economic development boosters in Southwest Virginia. Some of the more innovative ideas included cyber security, drone development, and IT development. The extraction of natural gas and the development of the region's energy-producing renewable resources were other suggestions.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF OUR GREAT NATION

AND OUR FREEDOM

Despite the problems in the United States of America, it remains a great nation in comparison to most of the rest of the world. Our *Constitution* and *Bill of Rights* have stood the test of time as outstanding documents. They provide for individual rights and freedoms that people in other nations only dream about having as their governing standards. Exciting stories of great American heroes and incredible rags-to-riches success have developed the American Dream... an ideal that makes our nation stand out and encourages its citizens to accomplish amazing things.

Celebrating the courage, virtues, and fortitude of the Founding Fathers and the many who have stood for what they believed in with their whole hearts is a national privilege. The failure to celebrate significant historic events and people could lead to a time when the memory of what makes this nation great fades. The practice of virtues and demonstrations of national pride could all but disappear. Recognition of the rights and freedoms enjoyed by Americans and how they were obtained and at what cost is crucial. If freedom is not valued highly, it could cease to exist.

Program: The Richlands Freedom Festival live remote

Date: July 1, 2017, from 10:10 am – 12 noon

Guests and their areas of expertise:

Karen Deel, the festival coordinator, covered the various aspects of the festival and specific details about the related events and entertainment opportunities.

Ben Stallard, the coordinator's nephew, shared some of the logistics of the festival.

Sidney Hendrick, the character of Abraham Lincoln, shared the difficulties of the *War Between the States* and the concerns of President Lincoln, as well as, other historic details of his time.

Danny Culver, the character of Ulysses S. Grant, spoke regarding the huge responsibility of trying to reunite a torn nation and what those efforts entailed.

Fred Powers, a third generation coal miner and coal mining historian, informed listeners of the history of local coal mining and the inherent dangers, also describing the equipment used and the development of safer mining practices over the years.

Colonel Charles Dahnmon Whitt, author of historic fiction books, shared how he and other authors can incorporate historic detail in their fiction books in such a way as to make history come alive for the readers.

Aly Hamilton and Alyssa Mullins, representatives from Heritage Hall Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center in Tazewell, Virginia, spoke on behalf of the aging and their specific needs.

Jan White, Mayor of the Town of Richlands, discussed the importance of patriotism and recognition of the freedom enjoyed by Americans and how it was earned.

Brian Hieatt, Sheriff of Tazewell County, shared some of the services provided by his office and some of the most recent news in crime fighting.

Brian Triplett, Sheriff's Deputy in Tazewell County, added to Sheriff Hieatt's report.

Glen Keen, Sheriff's Deputy and D.A.R.E. Officer for Tazewell County, informed listeners of the latest developments in Drug Abuse Resistance Education.

Bob Tabor, representing the Giles Artillery Battery, discussed various types of artillery used in the *Civil War* and various historic details.

In order to make listeners aware of the dates, locations, times, and other specifics of area Independence Day celebrations, short infobits are recorded with all the necessary information and played throughout the days prior to the events.

Program: Infobits regarding the Independence Day celebrations and related activities in all surrounding area locations

Dates: Infobits are aired throughout each day in the week leading up to the Independence Day celebrations

Guests for each location:

July 2 – Jewell Ridge – Jeff McCracken

July 3 – Honaker – Cathy Ray

July 4 – Historic Crab Orchard Museum – Charlotte Whitted

July 4 – Lebanon – Edythe Brown

July 4 – Tazewell – Robin Brewster

PROMOTING AREA EVENTS

One of the most important responsibilities of a local radio station is to make the community aware of community events. These events are a source of community pride, as well as, an economic boost for the individuals and organizations that take part as vendors. The more information that can be dispersed ahead of time the more smoothly the events tend to run.

Program: Infobits regarding Main Street Moments (in Tazewell)

Dates: July 18 – 22, 2017, aired throughout the day

Guest: Pam Meade, executive director of the Tazewell Area Chamber of Commerce

Program: Infobits regarding the Tazewell County Fair

Dates: July 13 – 22, 2017, aired throughout the day

Guests (separate recordings): Viola Asbury, Tazewell County Fair Superintendent

Jerry Foster, Chairman of the Tazewell County Fair Committee

For both of these events that were held in Tazewell, the guests gave a variety of specifics that would inform the listeners of the vital information. Additional information was dispersed in order attract the listeners to activities they would particularly enjoy.

RECOGNITION OF A BELOVED COMMUNITY SERVANT

Mike Compton is a humble servant of the community – especially the football community. Mike has labored tirelessly for the Richlands High School varsity football team since the time his first son played and is still serving, when he is physically able, several years after his second (and last) son played. He has transported and maintained the inflation of the huge inflatable Richlands helmet that the boys run through as they come on the field. He has rounded up outdoor heaters and set up and maintained them on the sidelines during icy cold football games. Countless other important deeds have been done by Mike to make life as easy as possible for the team and the coaches. More importantly, he has made himself approachable and available to the players as a father-figure.

To the heartbreak of many, Mike's health has been a major issue in recent months. He developed throat cancer and, soon after, suffered an almost fatal heart attack. Just prior to his cancer surgery at Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte, North Carolina, Mike was recognized mid-field by the announcer and the entire crowd of fans at the Richlands versus William Byrd football game.

At the game the week before versus Blacksburg, Mike was interviewed on WGTH. He was given recognition for his contributions to the Richlands football program and prayers were requested for his upcoming surgery. What made the recognition extra touching was that Mike has connections with both teams. His eldest son, Brandon, coaches for Blacksburg as an assistant to Thad Wells. Both Brandon and Thad were former Richlands players under Mike's watchful care.

Because Mike went and supported Blacksburg as often as he could, most of the Blacksburg Bruins' fans know and love Mike, as well.

Program: Coverage of the recognition of Mike Compton during the Richlands vs. William Byrd game

Date: September 22, 2017

Program: Live interview during the Richlands versus Blacksburg football game

Date: September 15, 2017, the live interview took place at 9:33 pm

Guest: Mike Compton

Mike Compton was called to the middle of the field to be recognized at the Richlands versus William Byrd varsity football game. Mike's long-term service and his dedication to the players were highlighted. His miraculous partial recovery from a very serious heart attack and his upcoming cancer surgery were announced. Prayers were requested, and both sides of the field gave Mike a thunderous standing ovation.

In the live interview with Mike, he humbly acknowledged the Lord's favorable response to the prayers of the many friends and acquaintances that prayed for him when his life was hanging in the balance. He asked for prayers for his surgery, as well. Even though the surgery would mean he would have to miss a game or more, he said he would be listening to the Richlands games on WGTH. Mike's connections to both teams through his son, Brandon, and head coach, Thad Wells, were highlighted.

PROMOTING SOUTHERN GOSPEL MUSIC

Although WGTH airs music of various genres, Southern Gospel is still the most popular among the greatest number of listeners according to the response received at the station. Nationally, it seems as though Southern Gospel music is somewhat less popular than it was at one time. Fewer groups are singing Southern Gospel and less music is available for air play. Therefore, the promotion of the majority of listeners' favorite genre is even more important, especially when it will be featured in an evening concert at a nearby county fair.

Program: Live telephone interview

Date: September 5, 2017 @ 8:25 am

Guest: Kevin Spencer, well-known Southern Gospel artist

In a live telephone interview, Kevin Spencer welcomed listeners to come to the Southern Gospel Night at the Russell County Fair. He expressed his excitement about the Spencer Reunion that would perform that Thursday night. When the family was younger, they used to sing together all the time. This would be a special appearance of Kevin with his parents, J. B. and Barbara Spencer.

PRESERVING LOCAL AND REGIONAL HERITAGE

The communities served by the radio station are rich with interesting history and cultural background. Local authors and historians have written volumes to make certain that records remain for posterity. Community and regional museums have been established to house photographs, drawings, artifacts, and other historical memorabilia to accompany the written historical accounts. Helping to preserve their heritage is a privilege for the community leaders and WGTH. The Cedar Bluff community hosts an annual festival in which the area's heritage is shared with both residents and visitors alike.

It is important to know about the people that settled an area. Who they were, where they were from, and what they endured in order to establish roots in an area are some of the interesting facts that increase understanding of the subculture(s) found in a given locality. For instance, Native Americans and the Scotch-Irish were the predominant local and regional people groups when this region was settled. Many of the names associated with the region and the types of trades, tools, homes, and music used when settling the region give evidence of their cultural influence.

Program: Live remote broadcast from the Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival

Date: September 16, 2017, from 10:10 am – 12:35 pm

Guests included the following (some are vendors and community volunteers):

Linda Singleton, festival coordinator and chairperson of the Cedar Bluff Business and Professional Association, gave an overview of the activities of the day and the times and locations of special events. She, specifically, encouraged attendees to consider taking the horse and carriage tours of the Historic District of Cedar Bluff that would originate at the Town Square. Linda gave special attention to the activities and events that directly connected to the "heritage" theme of the festival. For instance, the Appalachian Highlanders Pipes and Drums features the Scotch-

Irish bagpipe music and tartans that are characteristic of the region's heritage. The music of local country and bluegrass artists, especially Nathan Stanley (Ralph Stanley's grandson), demonstrates the amazing string talent (both vocal and instrumental) that is found in the Appalachian region. Several booths and displays were set up that honored military veterans, and there was a civil war encampment. Linda mentioned food vendors, but highlighted those who were featuring traditional fare, such as apple butter, and were actually demonstrating how it is made on site.

Jim McGlothlin, Town Manager of Cedar Bluff, took part in the discussion with Linda and, then, answered some questions about the parks, hiking trails, and picnicking sites in Cedar Bluff. He gave verbal directions to the most recently developed designated picnic spots and told of some more areas that are currently in the planning or construction stages. As the history of the area was being discussed, Jim welcomed listeners to come to Cedar Bluff Town Hall where there are numerous books, maps, photographs, and other memorabilia representative of the town, county, and region.

Joe Ferrara, representing the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, talked about the wealth of natural species in the vicinity of Cedar Bluff and in the region. He discussed the mussels that are found only in the Clinch River and only in the Cedar Bluff portion of the Clinch.

Chris Blankenship, representing Gethsemane Baptist Church, welcomed listeners to come by their tent and take whatever they thought they could use of books, craft items, decorations, and other odds and ends. Every year, they collect items that are given to charities at no cost, and they give them away to festival-goers.

Rod Cury, Richlands High School history teacher and history club sponsor, talked about the club's trip to New York City. He described the sites they had seen and the cultural exposure that took place while they were there. Rod explained that the club was raising money for the 2017-2018 trip, although the destination is yet to be determined.

Kevin Keene, a Richlands High School art student, spoke on behalf of the Art Club. Club members were face-painting and doing caricatures in order to raise money for a very special project they have undertaken. The way the Memory Project works is that students have photographs sent to them of poor and needy children – maybe orphans overseas – then they paint the likeness of photo on a canvas, frame it, and send it to back to the children to treasure.

Amanda Ellis-O'Quinn was working at the tent for the Healing Waters Counseling Center where she is one of the counselors. She has, also, written a children's book, The Unlucky Donkey, in which she tells the Easter story from the viewpoint of a sweet little donkey named Zeke. She had her books for sale, along with little stuffed animal donkeys that looked like Zeke.

Adda Leah Davis was one of the Appalachian authors that spoke about her books most of which were written for the purpose of educating young readers. She enjoys using stories from her childhood to teach lessons to children.

Don Meadows, Retired USMC, was manning a booth that featured Marine Corps paraphernalia, including books, posters, flags, etc. After a brief discussion regarding his mission to promote the Corps at the festival, Don talked about another mission in which he has served since his retirement. Virginia Baptist Disaster Response has an excellent reputation for arriving soon after a disaster has taken place and doing a great job helping people through the initial recovery period. Although the teams are from Virginia, they go to other states, as well. According to Don, there are three areas of training: food service, tree removal, or mud out (in case of floods). Don was trained in food service, and he has had several opportunities to help people after natural disasters have occurred.

Tom Graham was representing Operation Christmas Child (OCC), a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, in which shoe boxes are packed with small clothing items, toys, school supplies, personal hygiene items, etc., and are sent throughout the world to children in need. Tom made some great suggestions – thinking “inside the box” – for some practical items that could really help the children. One idea was to send a jump rope that could double as a clothesline and include clothespins. Two other very practical suggestions were fishing gear and sewing kits.

Deputy Mike Shawver and Deputy Landon Hieatt spoke on behalf of the Tazewell County Sheriff's Department. They described the educational materials they were making available to festival-goers and talked briefly about the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program.

Wayne Craig, a member of the Southwest Virginia Hunters Association, gave a brief description and history of the group. Wayne told about the meetings and gave an invitation to listeners to join the association.

SHOWING RESPECT, HONOR, AND GRATITUDE TO VETERANS

Many veterans have given the ultimate sacrifice to protect our country and people in other countries. The lives of the “fallen” cannot be replaced, but their actions and dedication deserve to be remembered and honored. The citizens of this nation should, intentionally, demonstrate respect and gratitude for those who have preserved freedom.

Program: Live remote broadcast from the Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival

Date: September 16, 2017

Guest: Ernie Lowe, member of the Fallen Warriors. Inc.

Ernie Lowe, representing Fallen Warriors, Inc., explained their mission. Their services to Veterans include providing an honor guard style motorcycle escort for funerals of deceased Veterans upon request, participating in ceremonies and parades in which Veterans are honored and shown gratitude and respect, and to educate and encourage respect for those who have served or are now serving.

A very visible and solemn reminder of the loss that occurs when a soldier has died in combat was the small table that was set to memorialize the one who would not be returning. The chair was tipped up against the small table that was covered with a pristine white tablecloth. Giving a heart-wrenching explanation for the symbolism of each piece, Ernie described the entire place-setting and all the decorations. During the festival, they were allowing people to choose a small, plastic toy soldier to take home and display in a prominent place at home as a permanent reminder to pray for military personnel.

Another significant reason for the Fallen Warriors’ presence at the festival was to promote and to ask for assistance with a very special project in which they are involved. They had set up a nicely-constructed Fallen Warriors Wall that honors those who died in combat from Tazewell County and several surrounding counties in Virginia and a couple of nearby counties in West Virginia. Though the current wall is attractive and offers a solemn reminder that these Veterans should never be forgotten, it is not very durable. The Fallen Warriors, Inc., is desiring to collect funds for the construction of a more durable structure that can be transported and displayed without fear of destruction.