

WGTH ISSUES & PROGRAMS LIST

FOURTH QUARTER 2019

OCTOBER – DECEMBER

NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION REGARDING THE UPCOMING ELECTION

Elections tend to generate much interest among the electorate. However, confusion and misunderstanding often accompany the process and the particulars involved. For instance, in Tazewell County, there will be several different ballot styles due to the town elections that will be taking place concurrently in some – but not all – precincts. In those precincts where town elections do occur, not all voters live within the town limits. Therefore, some have one ballot style while others have a different one at the same polling place. Additionally, there are still some voters who are not familiar with the change from touchscreens to paper ballots. These two situations represent only two potential causes for voter confusion and frustration.

Furthermore, there have been numerous changes regarding elections that have occurred in the past several years. Local changes, in particular, have caused some bewilderment and no small amount of exasperation. For example, several precincts in Tazewell County were combined two years ago and one of the new precincts made its second relocation in as many years.

Program: Prerecorded interview regarding the November 5th election, especially as it would affect voters in Tazewell County

Dates and Times: October 24, 2019 @ 7:05 pm & October 28, 2019 @ 11:10 am

Duration: 27 minutes (aired twice)

Guest: Brian Earls, Director of Elections and General Registrar for Tazewell County

Brian Earls, Director of Elections and General Registrar for Tazewell County, did a radio interview with WGTH last year that appeared to be effective in clearing up some confusion regarding issues surrounding the 2018 election. Earls gave a summary of what would be appearing on the ballot and addressed the changes that were being made within the county, such as precinct consolidation.

Based upon the questions that were being asked by voters (in person and by phone) regarding this year's election, Earls suggested that another interview would be helpful. Again, he used the opportunity to let potential voters know what would be on their ballots, according to the areas in which they reside. Since town elections were running concurrently, he explained that residents within town limits would have a different ballot from those outside town limits.

Many questions Earls' office received had to do with precinct relocation. He gave detailed directions to and descriptions of the most recent relocation. Other changes and answers to commonly asked questions were discussed. One other point of confusion was the relocation of the Registrar's Office that will take place after the election. Due to a local newspaper's article about the relocation, some voters had been led to believe that the office had already moved and wanted to know where to go to vote absentee in person. Earls explained that the new office facility was not yet ready, and the move would not happen until after the election.

ELECTION RETURNS

Election returns are much more readily available than in years and decades past. However, many of the listeners to WGTH are used to the election returns being broadcast every half hour on the night of the election, beginning shortly after the polls close and announced – along with additional information as it becomes available – until the winners are established. A sizable number of listeners do not have use of the internet, yet they enjoy knowing the results as quickly as possible. Of interest to a significant portion of the electorate are the returns from each individual precinct. Accessing the official Virginia Election website or waiting for the local paper to be published would be most people's options for getting this information if the returns were not broadcast on the radio.

Program: Election Returns broadcast live (by WGTH's Ron Brown)

Date and times: November 5, 2019, every half hour from 7:30 pm until 10:10 pm

Duration: Various from approximately 5 minutes increasing to 15-20 minutes as more precinct returns are posted

Listeners have come to expect reliable and instantaneous reports regarding election returns. This year, town elections were included which generated even more interest in local reporting.

MUCH-DESERVED ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VETERANS

The more we – as a nation – are able to observe the lack of freedom and its horrific consequences in so many parts of the world, the deeper our appreciation should be for those who have risked their lives to secure freedom for the United States of America and our allies. Celebrating Veterans Day and demonstrating gratitude to those who have sacrificed so much on behalf of our freedom seems like the least we could do.

Program: Audio announcements/invitations to veterans and their families to participate in area activities and meals designed to honor our local veterans

Dates and Times: November 2 – 10, 2019, aired 32 times (total) at various moments throughout the day

Duration: The events were announced altogether, but the dates and times varied. Events were deleted from the announcement after they occurred. Therefore, the duration of the announcement varied.

Guests: Trish Matney, Postmaster – Richlands

Connie Allen, event coordinator – Richlands

Linda Singleton, Business and Professional Association – Cedar Bluff

Jerry McReynolds, veteran and community leader – Tazewell

Each guest invited all local veterans and their families to participate in the events slated in their honor at the various locations. April Trent, from WGTH, announced the activities for the Town of Honaker. Parades, breakfasts, dinners, and other forms of recognition had been planned.

Program: Interview recorded during the Town of Richlands' Veterans Day Ceremony and Dinner on November 7, 2019

Date and Time: November 8, 2019 @ 8:40 am

Duration: 3 minutes 45 seconds

Guest: Joshua (Josh) Hess, spoke on behalf of his parents, Rusty and Teresa Hess – owners of American Carpet Care – the business sponsoring the dinner in memory of Josh's brother, Justin Hess

Federal, state and local governmental leaders and law enforcement officers took part in the ceremony, along with the Richlands High School Air Force Junior ROTC Color Guard and the Richlands High School Brass Ensemble and Advanced Choir. Local Boy Scout Troop 701, VFW Casey-Shortt Post 9640 Commander Mike Hickman, and Pastor Doug Allen also took part in the ceremony.

In an interview following the ceremony and just prior to the dinner, Josh Hess gave a summary of the events that took place during the Town of Richlands' Veterans Day Ceremony and discussed his parents' desire to honor the well-deserving veterans of the community and to honor the memory of their son and his brother, Justin. Josh Hess is a well-respected young man from the community – an outstanding student and athlete and soon-to-be law school graduate with intentions of returning to practice law locally. He acknowledged his family's high regard for those who have put their lives on the line for our country and for freedom around the globe. On their behalf, he stated that the dinner was one way they could show their appreciation for the sacrifices of those who serve or have served and for the first responders and other emergency and law enforcement personnel.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Christmas is a very special time of year when peace, love, joy, and giving are fostered by reminders of the blessings we have received. Christmas celebrations and events provide an opportunity for individuals and families to gather together in a spirit of community and share in fun and festive occasions. A well-decorated town or community that provides special family-oriented activities promotes a warm and giving spirit in its citizens and a sense of belonging that unifies the community.

Program: Live broadcast of the Town of Richlands' Christmas Parade

Date and Time: December 5, 2019, beginning at 6:04 pm

Duration: 48 minutes

Guest: Delores Miller, local jeweler of D's Diamond Edge

Announcers: Ron and Edythe Brown

The Christmas parade in the Town of Richlands is the essence of the advent of the Christmas season. Many churches, civic organizations, athletic teams, and other entities build floats around the theme of the parade. The viewers anticipate the Richlands High School Blue Tornado Marching Band, various pageant winners, antique cars and other specialty vehicles, horses and riders, and other parade participants. Police, fire and rescue squad vehicles always mark the beginning and the end of every parade.

Prior to the start of the parade local merchant, Delores Miller (D), welcomed listeners to the parade broadcast and wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Since the Richlands Christmas Parade is early in the season, the broadcast provided an opportunity to announce various upcoming local festivities before and after the parade. During the parade, in as much as it possible, every entry was mentioned and described. This year's grand marshals were the very deserving State Champions... Richlands High School Lady Blues Varsity Softball players.

Program: Infobits regarding Christmas on the Frontier at Historic Crab Orchard Museum in Tazewell, Virginia

Dates and Times: November 30 – December 6, 2019, aired 30 times (total) at various moments throughout the day

Duration: 1 minute 14 seconds

Guest: Charlotte Whitted, executive director of the Historic Crab Orchard Museum

Charlotte Whitted, executive director of the Historic Crab Orchard Museum, recorded a special audio invitation in which she asked the listeners to take part in a Christmas celebration as it probably would have been back in the days when the first folks settled in Tazewell (formerly called Jeffersonville). In addition, Charlotte gave considerable description of what people could expect to see and do during the event. She mentioned the families and individuals who would be singing Christmas carols in the cabins and welcomed guests to sing with them. Wassail and Christmas foods that were served in that time period were on her list of experiences to be enjoyed at the event. Of course, she included all the pertinent information. Her presentation, as always, was captivating with a hint of drama and appropriate music in the background.

Program: Infobits for “A December to Remember” – a special Christmas event in the Town of Cedar Bluff

Dates and Times: December 11 – 14, 2019, aired 20 times (total) at various moments throughout the day

Duration:

Guests: Lee Dye, Mayor of the Town of Cedar Bluff

John Absher, Town Manager for the Town of Cedar Bluff

The Town of Cedar Bluff launched a new Christmas event this year. It was called, “A December to Remember.” Mayor Lee Dye and Town Manager John Absher promoted the 1:00 till 7:00 pm event in a folksy manner. The gentlemen welcomed listeners to the family-friendly event that was multi-faceted and included a parade. Specific times and locations of the activities were mentioned.

Program: Cedar Bluff’s Annual “Concert in the Square” recorded live for broadcast later that night

Date and Time: December 16, 2019 @ 9:05 pm

Duration: 36 minutes

Guests: Pastor Bob Smith and the choir from the Claypool Hill Church of Christ under the direction of Kristen Thompson-Whitt

Unlike the aforementioned “December to Remember,” the “Concert in the Square” has been a traditional part of celebrating Christmas in Cedar Bluff for many years. The setting for the concert is in the beautifully-decorated town square. The choir sings in the gazebo next to the Christmas tree.

In years past, the concert was broadcast live. However, the event is now prerecorded in order for those involved to have the pleasure of hearing the program later that evening. Pastor Bob Smith spoke and the choir sang a lovely mixture of old and new Christmas songs.

PROMOTION OF SOUTHERN GOSPEL MUSIC

Southern gospel music is the mainstay of the music broadcast on WGTH. Although other genres are aired, also, Southern gospel is the favorite of the majority of the station's faithful listeners. There has been some concern that the industry has been declining somewhat in recent years. Promoting concerts within a reasonable driving distance is important to the listeners and to the furtherance of the popularity of Southern gospel music.

Program: Live broadcast of a telephone conversation featuring Bill Gaither promoting a concert to be held in Kingsport, Tennessee

Date and Time: November 6, 2019 @ 7:25 am and November 8, 2019 8:25 a.m.

Duration: 4 minutes

Guest: Bill Gaither, legendary singer, songwriter, and mentor for aspiring Southern gospel artists

For decades, Bill Gaither has been a major contributor to Southern gospel music and an enhancer of the popularity of Christian music, in general. His "Homecoming" tours are enormously popular with Southern gospel fans. Bill called the radio station in order to promote a concert that took place in Kingsport, Tennessee.

FAMILIES AND RELATIONSHIPS

The challenge of raising children and maintaining healthy relationships with loved ones affects every family unit.

Program: James Dobson Family Commentary

Date and Time: Weekday afternoons at 5:06 p.m. throughout the quarter

Duration: 90 seconds

Well known family relationship expert Dr. James Dobson shares a variety of practical parenting and relationship advice to help families raise confident and well-adjusted children and strengthen marriages.

