

WCHG Most Significant Issues 1st Quarter – January through March 2011

We aired national news broadcasts from NPR News at the top of each hour during our Morning Drive (6-10 a.m.) and Evening Drive (3-6 p.m.) as well as at the beginning and end of our Noon Hour Magazine (12 and 1 p.m.). At the bottom of each hour during the Morning and Evening Drive-times, we alternated airing state news reports from the Virginia News Network (VNN) and WV Metro News. VNN news also aired at 12:30, during Noon Hour Magazine, and WV Metro News aired at 12:55. These programs run Monday through Friday. We also carried NPR National News at Noon on Saturday and Sunday. Our local news stories aired after NPR News at the beginning of Noon Hour Magazine. They would then repeat at the top and bottom of each hour during the Evening Drive and the following day's Morning Drive. Here is a summary of the most significant issues covered in our local news this quarter.

County Government

We aired reports from each Bath County Board of Supervisors meeting, and we aired an agenda for each meeting the day before. Board of Supervisors reports this quarter aired on 1/17 (joint meeting with Planning Commission on wind turbines), 1/26 (joint meeting with Planning Commission – wind turbine viewshed concerns), 2/9 (approval of Parks & Rec policies), 2/10 (No money for animal shelter), 3/9 (Administrator Bonnie Johnson stepping down), 3/10 (Warm Springs Mtn tower replacement), and 3/24 (Bath School Board budget presented).

On 2/23, we aired a story about a possible dog ordinance being considered by the Bath County Board of Supervisors.

News Briefs

On 2/23, we ran a news brief on planned prescribed fires in Bath County to reduce wildfire fuel and improve habitats.

Wind Development

One of the most important stories we have been covering for the past couple of years has been the potential development of industrial wind energy facilities in and around Highland County. Now it appears that it may become an issue for Bath county as well.

Agriculture and Environment

Each day, during Noon Hour Magazine, we aired a regionally-produced three-minute news magazine feature about topics related to agriculture. Agriculture is a major

industry in our listening area, and being produced in the Shenandoah Valley, On the Farm Radio, is relevant to our listeners.

We air periodic reports from Patrick Sheridan, District Ranger for the Warm Springs District of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest. This quarter, these stories aired on 2/11 (prescribed fire scheduled for spring), 2/18 (George Washington forest plan), and 2/28 (timber plans for Back Creek Mtn).

On 1/3, we aired a story about Bath County receiving an almost \$7000.00 grant to study flooding on Cabin Creek in Millboro in an effort to determine why the creek has been flooding more severely in recent years.

On 2/25, we aired a story about the Holiday Lake Forestry Camp, a camping experience designed to show what it's like to work outdoors and/or in the forestry industry.

Community

We run a periodic feature on the activities of the Bath County Senior Center. This quarter, these reports ran on 1/10, 2/7, and 3/17.

On 1/19, we aired a story about the Bath County Meals on Wheels program and the desperate need for more volunteers to deliver the meals to senior citizens and homebound residents.

On 2/7, we aired a story about the Bath County Parks and Recreation department seeking public input on their programs and policies.

On 2/14, we aired a story about the collapse of a 100 foot tower on Warm Springs Mountain. The tower was home to the transmitter for Allegheny Mountain Radios Bath County station, WCHG, as well as several antennas for Bath County emergency services. The tower fell when strong winds snapped the guidewires attaching the tower to anchors in the ground. Some emergency services were restored within a couple of days. A new tower is expected to be in place by mid April.

On 2/15, we aired an interview with AMR Chief Engineer Chuck Niday about the WCHG tower collapse. Niday was able to get the station back on the air within a week of the tower collapse at reduced power.

On 3/11, we aired an interview with Andy Seabolt, the Emergency Services Director for Bath County. Seabolt says the new radio tower should go up on Warm Springs Mtn in April and will have more capacity than the old tower.

Education and Children

We cover the meetings of the Bath Co School Board. During this quarter, these reports ran on 1/6 (wish list for 2011), 1/7 (spring sports assignments), 3/3 (high school locker

room closed), 3/4/11(budget), and 3/18 (3% school staff raise).

On 1/24, we aired a story about an upcoming talent show at Bath County HS. The show is sponsored by the BCHS Achievement Boosters Club.

On 3/25, we aired a story about a Bath County HS Destination Imagination team qualifying to compete at the state level.

On 3/28, we aired a story about the Bath County HS Achievement Boosters annual Golf Tournament. Proceeds from the fundraising event are used to provide scholarship money for graduating seniors.

Jobs and Development

On 2/21, we aired an interview with Bath County Tourism Director Maggie Anderson and her plan to create a new website for the county.

Arts and Culture

On 3/14, we aired a story about the history of the Garth Newel Music Center in Warm Springs, including comments from an employee who has worked there for 25 years.

On 3/17, we aired an interview with Joe Mullins, lead singer for Joe Mullins & The Radio Ramblers, one of the groups performing at the 9th annual Bluegrass Jamboree the first weekend of April.

On 3/21, we aired a story about the upcoming Mountain Strings and Arts Festival, a new tourism initiative spearheaded by Tourism Director Maggie Anderson.

On 3/29, we aired an interview with the Church Sisters, two teenage girls who sing gospel and bluegrass. They are another one of the acts scheduled to perform at the Bath Bluegrass Jamboree.

On 3/30, we aired a story about the group Upriver Music. They combine Celtic, Folk, Bluegrass and Mountain music with oral history about the Appalachian region and the Scots-Irish who settled in this region.

Public Service Announcements

Below is a list of Public Service Announcements aired this quarter:

Education and Children

Bath County Library Book Bingo	12/30 thru 1/30/11
Bath County High School Talent Show	1/19 thru 2/19
Earned Income Credit – 33 seconds	2/2 thru 4/14

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Social Security Direct Deposit	2/7 thru 2/28
Social Security Income Tax Deductions	2/7 thru 4/14
Social Security Pre Existing Conditions	2/7 thru 2/28
Social Security Replacement 1099	2/7 thru 2/28
Social Security Administration – Medicare Online	3/10 thru 4/10
Social Security Admin – Speeding Disability Claims	3/10 thru 4/10

Health and Human Resources

Virginia State Parks Americorps Volunteers	12/30 thru 1/30/11
Bath County Get Fit	1/12 thru 2/11
Stop Smoking – General	1/12 thru 2/11
Bath Health Dept Flu Shot	1/20 thru 2/4

Benefits and Fundraisers

Buffalo Gap HS Benefit Concert	1/20 thru 1/30
Bath HS FCCLA Club His & Her Bingo	2/10 thru 2/26
Bath HS Donkey Basketball	3/2 thru 3/12
WCHG Barn Dance	3/8 thru 4/1
Beans, Greens, and Barbeque Dinner	3/8 thru 4/2

Art, Culture, and Recreation

Scott Ainsley at Garth Newel Music Center	2/8 thru 2/18
Bluebird Boxes Seminar	2/10 thru 2/18
Mountain Strings and Arts Festival	3/8 thru 4/3