

WDMT Most Significant Issues 2nd Quarter – April through June 2020

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 meeting of the Pocahontas County Commission and reported the agenda for each meeting the day before. County Commission reports this quarter aired on 4/2, 4/8 (State of Emergency Declaration), 4/28 (levy), 5/6, 5/12, 5/18, 5/21, 6/3 (guidelines for reopening lodging), 6/16, 6/22, and 6/26.

Court /Crime/Breaking News

On 4/1, we aired a story about a COVID-19 fraud task force created by the West Virginia Attorney General's office to combat potential scams involving the coronavirus outbreak in the state.

On 4/21, we aired a short story about a homicide charge in Pocahontas. On 4/24, we aired a story about the suspect in the homicide being pursued as a fugitive from justice. On 4/28, we aired a story about the fugitive being apprehended by the West Virginia State Police near Watoga State Park in Pocahontas county.

On 4/27, we aired a story about the first confirmed positive COVID-19 case in Pocahontas.

On 6/26, we aired a story about a meeting of the Highland Planning Commission to discuss a request for a zoning exception.

Election Stories

On 6/10 we aired a story about the results of the West Virginia primary election.

News Briefs

On 5/18, we aired an update on the COVID-19 cases being reported in Pocahontas.

Education

We aired reports from Board of Education meetings this quarter and aired agendas for each meeting the day of the meeting. Board of Education reports this quarter aired on 4/9, 4/30, 5/14, 5/28 (graduation), 6/9, and 6/12 (high school graduation venue change).

On 5/30, we aired an update from the Pocahontas County Free Library system. They are continuing to offer wi-fi access in the parking lot of each location and will soon be offering curbside pickup of books.

On 6/11, we aired a story about Sierra Rodriguez, the student representative to the county Board of Education. She spoke about her experience of transferring from a large urban school system to the small rural school system in Pocahontas County.

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 features by volunteer reporter Jason Bauserman, our “Bartow Weatherman”. He has been collecting weather information for many years, and his reports are a review of the weather conditions for the previous month. This quarter his reports ran on 4/7, 5/12, and 6/9.

We have been airing a series of stories about a proposed natural gas pipeline that would travel through parts of Pocahontas and Highland Counties, on a path that would take the pipeline from the shale fields of northern West Virginia through Virginia with the terminus of the pipeline in western North Carolina. A change in the pipeline route during this quarter now also includes parts of Bath County. During this quarter, these stories covering events in all three counties ran on 6/16 (Supreme Ct okays pipeline to cross Appalachian Trail).

On 4/10, we aired a story about the Dolly Sods wilderness area being closed due to the pandemic.

On 4/24, we aired a story about the Monongahela National Forest’s 100th birthday.

On 5/19, we aired a story about encouraging people to keep track of fireflies in their yard. This citizen science program aims to collect data about fireflies in our region to get a better idea of the population numbers.

On 6/5, we aired a story about the Evers MOA expansion which would allow military jets to expand their training runs over parts of Virginia and West Virginia.

On 6/12, we aired a story about forest areas that are reopening in the Monongahela National Forest.

Community

On 4/6, we aired a story about a WV Suicide Hotline established to help those who are having difficulty dealing with COVID-19 issues.

On 5/25 through 5/27, we aired a three-part story about the 2020 census and why it is so important for all households to respond.

On 5/26, we aired a story about a movement to create “Blessing Boxes” in Pocahontas County. The boxes are similar to the “Little Library” boxes, but instead of books, people can leave non-perishable food items or toiletries for those in need.

People

On 4/20 through 4/23, we aired a four-part interview with Mary Beth Barr, the CEO of Pocahontas Memorial Hospital. The rural hospital is dealing with financial difficulties and the need to add services.

Jobs and Development

On 4/8, we aired a story about Mon Forest Towns, a statewide tourism initiative to promote towns located in or near the Monongahela National Forest. Marlinton, the county seat of Pocahontas is one of the Mon Forest Towns.

On 5/7, we aired an interview with Cara Rose, Executive Director of the Pocahontas Convention and Visitors Bureau. She wanted everyone to understand the county is open for business again. On 6/24, we aired an update from Cara on which businesses are ready to reopen for tourists.

On 6/18, we aired a story about the West Virginia State Fair being cancelled due to an outbreak of COVID-19 cases in Lewisburg. The fairgrounds are in Fairlea, just down the road from Lewisburg.

On 6/18, we aired a new business profile story about the S & D Diner that just recently opened in Marlinton.

On 6/23, we aired a story about a new area code being created that will overlap customer phone numbers in the current 540 area code. Once the new code is activated, those in the 540 area code will have to dial 10 digits instead of 7.

Virginia Public Radio

We have entered into an agreement with Virginia Public Radio to be able to rebroadcast stories produced by reporters who work for VPR. This gives AMR an additional source of well-produced state news. This quarter, these stories aired on 4/13, 4/16, 4/23, 5/19 and 5/20 (affects of COVID-19 cases on state hospitals), 6/10, 6/19, 6/22, and 6/29.

West Virginia Public Radio

We occasionally carry stories produced by West Virginia Public Broadcasting. During this quarter these stories aired on

Arts and Culture

During this quarter we aired a movie review feature during Noon Hour Magazine on Monday's called *Reel Discovery*. This quarter the program aired on 4/6, 4/13, 4/20, 4/27, 5/4, 5/11, 5/18, 5/25, 6/1, 6/8, 6/15, 6/22 and 6/29.

This quarter we aired the arts and culture feature Allegheny Mountain Showcase and Arts Calendar, with its emphasis on local artists and events in the Allegheny highlands of the two Virginias. The Arts Calendar features a calendar of upcoming arts events. The Showcase focuses on a particular artist, group and venue. **During this quarter this feature aired on - Feature temporarily suspended due to COVID-19.**

On 4/15, we aired a story about a Wellness and Wildflower weekend retreat at the Yew Mountain Center in Hillsboro.

Public Service Announcements

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

Education and Children

Health and Human Resources

PMH COVID-19 Restrictions	4/1 thru 6/30
COVID-19 Symptoms	4/6 thru 6/30
WV Stay At Home Order	4/7 thru 5/30
Census Jobs	4/10 thru 5/30
PMH COVID-19 Testing Screening	5/21 thru 6/30
American Lung Assoc COVID Lung Health	5/21 thru 6/30

Benefits and Fundraisers

Art, Culture, and Recreation

AMR No Volunteer Programming	3/25 thru 5/17
AMR Birthday List	6/22 thru 7/4