

WDMT Most Significant Issues 4th Quarter – October through December 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 10/8 (COVID grant money), 10/22 (Silvercreek assessments), 11/5 (USDA broadband grant), 11/20 (USDA broadband grant), 12/2 (letter opposing Mace project), and 12/18 (remaining COVID funds distribution).

Court /Crime/Breaking News

On 12/3, we aired a story about a Pocahontas County resident being charged with murder after what appears to be a domestic dispute.

Election Stories

On 11/11, we aired a story about how the election canvass process works and how votes are certified by the County Commission following an election.

News Briefs

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 10/9 (CEFP), 10/15, 10/16, 10/29 (revised opening plan), 11/2, 11/9 (GBEMS quarantine), 11/24 (contractor for school safety), 12/7 (COVID updates), and 12/22 (virtual learning difficulties).

We air occasional interviews with the Pocahontas County Superintendent of Schools, Terrence Beam. It allows Mr. Beam to expand on topics important to the county students and their families. During this quarter, these stories aired on 10/1 and 12/9.

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 10/13, 11/6, and 12/8.

Community

On 11/25, we aired a story about the history of prohibition in the county and specifically how it affected the northern end of the county and in the Town of Durbin.

On 12/1, we aired a story about the deadline to sign up for healthcare through the ACA.

On 12/10, we aired a story about Wreaths Across America, a volunteer program that places Christmas wreaths on the graves of Veterans at Arlington National Cemetery and in other cemeteries around the county. A WAA ceremony is also held in Pocahontas County each year.

On 12/30, we aired a story about new rules that will help make hospital billing more transparent for patients so that they aren't hit with surprise bills.

People

On 11/13, we aired a story about Trevor Hammons and his family's contribution to old time music in Pocahontas County. Trevor's family will be inducted into the West Virginia Music Hall of Fame in 2020.

Jobs and Development

On 10/2, we aired a story about Snowshoe Mtn Resort hosting the 2021 World Cup Event.

On 10/23, we aired a story about Pocahontas County being designated as a Silver Ride Center by the International Mountain Bike Association. The designation makes the county an even more desirable destination for mountain bikers.

On 11/17, we aired a story about a group of Pocahontas residents who want to renovate the old Howes Tannery office building in the northern part of the county and create a museum about the once thriving business that employed folks from many surrounding counties as well as Pocahontas. We aired a follow up story about the museum on 12/24.

On 12/15, we aired a story about the Pocahontas County Convention and Visitors Bureau Mask Up program that encourages residents and visitors to wear a mask to help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus.

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 10/2 (COVID prison cases), 10/14 (disappearing candidate signs), 10/28 (ghost trees), 11/11, 12/1 (mobile home parks disappearing), 12/21 and 12/23 (imperiled eagles).

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 10/5, 10/12, 10/19, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/23, 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 12/21, and 12/28.

During this quarter we aired a feature called *Travelers In The Night*, about asteroids, comets and other interstellar phenomena. This feature aired on 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 11/26, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17, 12/24, and 12/31.

This quarter we aired a feature called Recipe Roundup, featuring various recipes for all kinds of foods. This feature is produced entirely by AMR staff. During this quarter this feature aired on 12/11, and 12/18.

Public Service Announcements

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

Education and Children

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| Pocahontas Football Yellow Status Attendance Rules | 9/16 thru 9/18 |
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Health and Human Resources

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| Pocahontas County Absentee Voting | 9/10 thru 10/28 |
| West Virginia Mask Mandate | 11/13 thru 12/31 |
| Pocahontas Memorial Hospital Visitor Restrictions | 11/24 thru 12/31 |

Benefits and Fundraisers

Art, Culture, and Recreation

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| Marlinton Christmas Parade | 11/27 thru 12/4 |
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