

WDMT Most Significant Issues January through March 2024

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 1/3 (first opioid check from settlement), 1/18 (EMS), 1/19 (NP updates), 1/24 (tannery clean up), 2/7 (HM distribution), 2/22 (courthouse security), 3/7 (former tannery office), 3/8 (landfill) and 3/21 (demolition ordinance).

During this quarter, we aired stories based on meetings of the Pocahontas Solid Waste Authority. These stories aired on 2/6 (landfill lifespan), 3/1 (landfill future), and 3/28 (violations).

Court /Crime/Breaking News

On 2/14, we aired a story about Mason Walker being arrested on charges of shooting and killing his girlfriend Camie Rider in front of the Little General store in Marlinton. Walker and Rider had been seen arguing in the parking lot of the store prior to the shooting.

Election Stories

On 1/31, we aired a story about the various candidates running for different offices in the May 14th WV primary.

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 1/11 (Regional literature fair), 2/1 (Purple Star), 2/26 (college prep), 3/14 (Lady Warriors BBall team recognized), and 3/22 (possible RIFs).

We air periodic reports from Pocahontas County Superintendent of Schools Lynn Bostic. During this quarter, these reports aired on 3/25.

On 3/25 and 3/26, we aired a two-part story about a student walkout at the high school in protest of possible cuts to STEM and vocational classes.

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 1/15, 2/14, and 3/14.

On 1/22, we aired a story about a black hole-pulsar binary star discovered in part due to help from the Green Bank Telescope, located at the Green Bank Observatory in Pocahontas.

On 1/23, we aired a story about the USFS being sued over allowing mining in the Monongahela National Forest that could further impact the already critically endangered Candy Darter, a colorful fresh water fish that lives in the streams of the Mon forest.

On 1/26, we aired a story about updates to various programs currently active in the Monongahela National Forest.

On 2/16, we aired a story about the Great Backyard Bird Count and how people could participate by counting and documenting the birds that visited their backyard in a certain 15-minute period. The data collected allows scientists to track different species and how changing environments affect them.

On 3/6 and 3/8, we aired a two-part interview with Nicolle Flood-Sawczynsyzyn about the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Allegheny Trail, a 311-mile long trail that runs north-south through West Virginia. 90 miles of the trail are located in Pocahontas County.

On 3/18, we aired a story about upcoming prescribed burns planned for the Monongahela National Forest to improve habitat and reduce wildfire fuels.

Community

On 01-04, we aired a story about the WV Dept of Health and Human Resources restructuring process and what it means for those who use the service in Pocahontas.

People

Jobs and Development

We air periodic reports from the meetings of the Pocahontas County Broadband Council. The council is made up of a broad cross-section of county residents seeking to improve broadband access in the county for all residents. During this quarter, we aired stories from the council meetings on 1/12 (pole agreements), 2/20 (Lead2 grant), and 3/15 (pole agreements).

On 1/5, we aired an interview with Chelsea Faulknier, the Executive Director of the Pocahontas County Convention and Visitors Bureau about upcoming events.

On 2/27, we aired a story about the Upper Pocahontas Community Council and their plans to try to save the old office building formerly used by the tannery in the community of Frank in northern Pocahontas. They would like to turn the building into a museum.

WV News Service

We periodically air news reports from the West Virginia News Service. During this quarter these stories aired on 01-02 (WV Medicaid dropping kids).

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 1/10 (Va assembly preview), 1/24 (new gun law proposed), 1/30, 2/5 (hunting dogs), 2/13 (school partner violence), and 2/29 (chestnut research).

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 1/1, 1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/04, 3/11, 3/18, and 3/25.

During this quarter we aired a feature called *Travelers in the Night*, about asteroids, comets and other interstellar phenomena. This feature aired on 01-04, 1/11, 1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 2/29, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21 and 3/28.

This quarter we began airing StoryCorps, a feature that tells the stories of people from across the country who share stories with loved ones. This feature aired during this quarter on 1/10, 1/17, 1/24, 1/31, 2/14, 2/21, 2/28, 3/13, 3/20, and 3/27.

During this quarter, we aired a feature called Trail Talk, highlighting the various hiking, biking and running trails around the region. This feature aired during this quarter on 3/21.

Public Service Announcements

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

Education and Children

Virginia State Police Bath Co – Buckle Up	Ongoing
Virginia State Police Bath Co – Distracted Driving	Ongoing
CPB Funding Threats	7/20 – ongoing
National FFA Week – Ramona Hardy	2/8 – 2/24
National FFA Week – Camie Warner	2/8 – 2/24
National FFA Week – Jessica Armstrong	2/8 – 2/24
National FFA Week - Taylor Friel	2/8 – 2/24

National FFA Week – Hanna Burks

2/8 – 2/24

Health and Human Resources

Benefits and Fundraisers

Art, Culture, and Recreation

Allegheny Mountain Radio App

Ongoing