

WVMR, WVMR-FM, WNMP, WDMT Most Significant Issues 2nd Quarter – April Through June 2012

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 4/4, 4/5 (Litsey defends ethics violation), 4/19, 5/2, 5/3, 5/16, 5/17, 6/6, 6/2, 6/20, and 6/21.

During this quarter we aired stories about the Marlinton Town Council meetings. These stories aired on 4/3 (delinquent business tax), 5/8, and 6/8.

During this quarter we aired stories about the Durbin Town Council meetings. These stories aired on 4/11.

During this quarter we aired stories about the Hillsboro Town Council meetings. These stories aired on 4/27 and 6/1.

Court

On 4/4, we aired a story about indictments handed down by the Pocahontas County Grand Jury during its April session.

On 4/13, we aired a story about a lawsuit against the county government being dismissed in Circuit court. The Commission had been accused of deeding land to a local business owner illegally.

On 4/27, we aired a story about a special prosecutor being appointed to a case against a former county commissioner and school administrator who is accused of holding onto sensitive school information after he was fired from his position by the Board of Education.

On 5/10, we aired a story about former Pocahontas County Sheriff's deputy Bradley C. Totten pleading not guilty to multiple charges of sexual abuse.

On 6/29, we aired a story about the Stull murder trial in Pocahontas Circuit court.

Election Stories

On 4/18, we aired a story about the Republican candidates running for the office of Magistrate this year.

On 4/19, we aired a story about the Democratic candidates running for the office of Magistrate this year.

On 5/9, we aired the results of the May primary election in the county.

Breaking News

On 4/13, we aired information about an Amber alert that was issued for Porshia Atwell. Her father had been accused of killing her mother and then kidnapping the eight year old child from her grandparent's home.

News Briefs

On 5/11, we began airing a news brief about an upcoming scheduled power outage in the Durbin area to upgrade some power lines.

Slatyfork Sewer Plant

One of the biggest issues on the minds of our listeners has been the controversial plan by the county to build a regional wastewater treatment system, with a treatment plant located at Slatyfork, to serve Snowshoe and surrounding areas, most of the current customers being Snowshoe customers. County officials have acknowledged the plant's primary purpose is to allow for future growth of the tourism industry at and surrounding Snowshoe Mountain Resort. We have been covering this story for several years now.

Public Service District

The Pocahontas Public Service District board meets regularly on the last Tuesday of each month. While their primary topic of discussion is often the Slatyfork Sewer plant, they also discuss issues concerning the water and sewer in the northern part of the county. This quarter, we aired stories on 4/26, 5/29, 6/5 (Shiple status update), 6/14 (considering alternatives), 6/15 (changing Linwood plant location), and 6/28.

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 4/24, 4/25, 5/15, 5/30, 5/31 and 6/12.

On 5/1, we aired a story about a presentation of Rachel's Challenge in the county schools, an anti-bullying program that's had great success around the world.

On 5/9, we aired a story about the success of the first year of programs offered by the One Room University, an off campus school offering classes via internet video technology.

On 5/15, we aired a story about school funding becoming available for long overdue renovations to the cafeteria at Hillsboro Elementary school.

On 5/22, we aired a story about a group of students from Marlinton Middle School who staged a special fundraising walk-a-thon to raise money for a teacher at the school who is battling cancer.

On 5/24, we aired an interview with Pocahontas County HS Principal Tom Sanders on the importance of keeping athletics available in the county schools.

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 also aired a weekly feature called Town and Country Topics, in which a representative from the Virginia Cooperative Extension shared news about agriculture-related topics in the listening area. During this quarter, these reports aired on 4/10, 4/17, 4/24, 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22, 5/29, 6/12, 6/19, and 6/26.

We air a monthly feature 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 4/5 and 5/15.

On 4/6, we aired a story about a local farmer who is teaching residents about growing more local foods, including using heirloom seeds and how to swap with one another to increase local diversity.

On 4/20, we aired a story about renovations being made to Beartown, a popular West Virginia state park in Pocahontas County.

On 6/4, we aired a story about the Greenbrier River Trail being inducted into the Rail Trail Hall of Fame.

Health Issues

We air periodic reports about meetings of the Pocahontas Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees. This quarter these reports aired on 5/1, 5/24 (trying to collect on old debts).

On 4/23, we aired a report on the dangers of using tobacco and how to find help to quit.

On 6/13, we aired a story about mental health services offered by Seneca Health Services to residents.

Community

We air a weekly feature called Let's Dish which features recipes from our listeners. This quarter these features aired on 4/4, 4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9, 5/16, 5/23, 5/30, 6/6, 6/20, and 6/27.

On 4/9, we aired a story about Allegheny Mountain Radio's signal now being available worldwide via an internet stream.

On 4/11, we aired a story about required vaccinations for students entering Pocahontas County schools in the fall of 2012.

On 4/16, we aired a story about the grand opening of a Family Outreach Center in the county seat of Marlinton. The center will offer a variety of services to families and individuals.

On 4/17, we aired a story about an open house celebration for CASA (court appointed special advocates) in Marlinton and their desperate need for volunteers.

On 4/18, we aired a story about the Wall That Heals, a traveling exhibit in miniature of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C. The exhibit was scheduled to make a stop in Harrisonburg, VA, an area visited by many in our listening area.

On 5/11, we aired a story about the US post office carriers annual 'Stamp Out Hunger' food drive.

On 5/14, we aired a story about a search and rescue exercise conducted in the county by local and state emergency personnel, including authorities from both West Virginia and Virginia.

On 5/21, we aired a story about the three counties in our listening area wanting to establish a regional animal welfare committee to share information on best practices and providing care and shelter for animals in all three counties.

On 6/18, we aired a story about the first annual Space Rumpas bicycle race held at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank. The race is a fundraiser to raise funds to build a community wellness center in Green Bank.

On 6/19, we aired a story about another fundraising effort in Marlinton to raise the additional funding needed to build a new community wellness center in that area of the county.

People

On 4/20, we aired a story about the the camp girls who used to wash clothes and cook for the workers in the CCC camps early in the history of Pocahontas County.

On 6/27, we aired a story about local banjo player Jay Lockman who won an award at the prestigious Vandalia Music festival in Charleston.
Jobs and Development

On 4/2 we aired a story about the business and service award winners as recognized by the Pocahontas County Chamber of Commerce.

On 4/3, we aired a story about a presentation by the President of the WV Chamber of Commerce during the Pocahontas County Chamber of Commerce annual dinner.

On 4/10, we aired a story about locally produced lumbers being increasingly sent to foreign markets around the world.

On 4/30, we aired a story about the Great Greenbrier River Race, an triathlon events that draws a large number of spectators and participants to the Pocahontas County seat of Marlinton and is very good for the local economy.

On 5/4, we aired a story about plans to begin rebuilding the Marlinton depot, an historic building destroyed by fire in 2008.

On 5/7, we aired a story about the Municipal League Conference coming to Pocahontas.

On 5/18, we aired a story about CBS Sunday Morning reporter Richard Schlesinger interviewing AMR Chief Engineer Chuck Niday about this 'day' job as radio frequency interference (RFI) hunter for the NRAO.

On 5/24, we aired a story about Pocahontas County having the highest unemployment numbers in the state for the previous month. We aired a follow up story on the unemployment numbers for the county on 6/22.

Arts and Culture

We air a weekly feature called Visitors and Vacations, highlighting events and recreational opportunities in and around Pocahontas County. During this quarter, it aired on 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 5/22, 5/28, and 6/4.

During this quarter we aired stories from the Rt 219 Traveling Project, a collection of stories gathered from those living all along the long corridor of this road from Virginia to Maryland. This quarter these stories aired on 5/7, 5/18, 5/25, 6/1, 6/8, 6/15, 6/22, and 6/29.

On 4/17, we aired a story about the Cal Price Enrichment series, a series of mini grants given to various residents of the county to present the history and culture of the county through their art.

On 5/2, we aired a story about the winner of the first Pocahontas Geo Cache challenge, an event sponsored by the Pocahontas County Visitors and Conventions bureau. On 5/4, we featured an interview with the first winner of the challenge, Travis Burris.

On 5/24, we aired a story about Beartown State Park reopening for Memorial Day. The popular West Virginia state park had been closed since early spring for repairs and upgrades to the park's boardwalks.

On 5/28, we aired a story about a group of citizens in southern Pocahontas County who would like to establish a "Birthplace of Rivers" national monument in the Cranberry Glades wilderness area. If approved, it would be the first in West Virginia to have national monument status. We aired a follow up story on this issue on 6/6.

On 6/12, we aired a story with an update on the progress of establishing a Quilt Trail in the county.

On 6/13, we aired a story about Caleb Diller's presentation on the claw hammer Banjo, part of the Cal Price Enrichment series.

On 6/25, we aired a story about a proposal to greatly expand the available rail line coverage in Pocahontas County for tourist trains.

On 6/26, we aired a story about the Huntersville Historic Traditions group taking responsibility for the historic jailhouse in the Huntersville community.

Public Service Announcements

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

Education and Children

Kids First Early Childhood Fair	4/16 thru 4/21
Pocahontas Meet the Candidates - Sheriff	4/17 thru 4/28
Pocahontas Meet the Candidates - Commission	4/17 thru 4/30
Pocahontas Meet the Candidates - Bd of Education	4/17 thru 5/3
Child Abuse Prevention Seminar	4/18 thru 5/22
McClintic Library Grant Webinar	4/24 thru 5/9
Women in Agriculture Seminar	4/30 thru 5/9
Camp Horseshoe Childrens Applications	5/8 thru 6/21
Pocahontas Libraries Summer Reading Pgm	6/19 thru 8/1
Energy Express Reading Program	6/22 thru 7/22

Health and Human Resources

National Drug Take Back Day	4/16 thru 4/28
Preventing Age Related Blindness	5/31 thru 6/30
AMR General Manager Position	6/25 thru 7/9

Benefits and Fundraisers

Pocahontas Relay for Life Golf Tourney	5/16 thru 6/2
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Art, Culture, and Recreation

Lewisburg Chocolate Festival	4/6 thru 4/14
Pocahontas Opera House - Doug Eliot	4/26 thru 5/4
Pocahontas Opera House - Honey Dew Drops	5/8 thru 6/9
Pocahontas Opera Hse - A Nice Family Gathering	5/10 thru 5/19
Greenbrier River Trail Hall of Fame Induction	5/15 thru 6/2
Pocahontas County Quilt Trail Voting	5/23 thru 5/31