

WVMR, WVMR-FM, WNMP, WDMT Most Significant Issues 3rd Quarter – July Through September 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 meeting of the Pocahontas County Commission and reported the agenda for each meeting the day before. County Commission reports this quarter aired on 7/6 (animal control contract), 7/20 (nine applicants for 911 Directors job), 7/21 (Wetzel county gas wells), 8/3 (46k in contributions), 8/5 (response to forest svc letter), 8/17 (petition for dissolution of Durbin), 8/19 (Shawn Dunbrack named new 911 Director), 8/22 (ARC idea for a pool), 9/7 (ARC says Mallow contract invalid), 9/8 (water baseline study), 9/23 (Marcellus ban petition), and 9/26 (response to DEP about Marcellus rules).

We air a live call-in show on the first Saturday of each month that allows listeners to ask questions of the County Commissioners. This quarter, "Commissioners Corner" aired on 9/3.

During this quarter we aired stories about the Marlinton Town Council meetings. These stories aired on 7/15 (storm drain project), 8/4 (setting fees for emp work), and 9/7.

On 7/1, we aired a report about the second annual electronic recycling day held in the county to recycle electronic devices including computers, tv's and other no longer wanted items. It's organized by the county Solid Waste Authority in hopes of keeping these devices out of the local landfill.

On 8/15, we aired a report about the August session of the Pocahontas Grand Jury. Over 70 indictments were returned by the jury.

On 8/17 and 8/18, we aired two stories about a visit to Marlinton by WV Senator Joe Manchin. It was one of the stops on his Rebuilding America tour and several residents turned out to speak to the Senator.

On 8/24 and 8/25, we aired stories from a special meeting of the Pocahontas County Commission during which West Virginia University law professor Bob Bastress talked about the problems with trying to institute a ban on Marcellus Shale horizontal drilling.

On 9/9, we aired a story about a public comment period on proposed new rules regarding Marcellus Shale horizontal drilling in West Virginia as defined by the Dept of Environmental Protection.

We aired a series of stories about a trip to Wetzel County by the Pocahontas County Commissioners to see firsthand the effects of Marcellus Shale horizontal drilling on Wetzel County and what it might mean for Pocahontas, should the practice come to this county. These stories aired on 9/16 (Rose Baker), 9/19 (surface owners Dewey Teal and Sarah Wood), and 9/20 (landowner who has leased his minerals).

Breaking News

On 8/23, we aired a story about the 5.8 earthquake near Mineral, Va that was felt by many in our listening area.

News Briefs

On 7/27, we aired a report about Pilgrim's Pride Chicken Nuggets sold in Dollar General stores in Virginia and West Virginia.

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 7/7 (go ahead for rigby prelim engineering plan), 8/2 (how to spend water money), and 9/2 (water project money).

On 8/9, we aired a report about PSD member Amon Tracey filing ethics charges against fellow PSD board member David Litsey, alleging malfeasance in his service on the board.

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 7/12 (attendance issues), 7/26 (truancy issues), 8/10 (home grown lunches), 8/24 (boe-frn partnership), and 9/14 (community center bid).

This quarter we aired reports from Pocahontas County School Superintendent CC Lester, speaking on a number of topics concerning the schools. These reports aired on 7/15.

On 7/8, we aired a story about the Energy Express program at Marlinton Elementary school this summer. The program had a full enrollment of 32 children and a waiting list of many more.

On 8/26, we aired a story about Principal Ruth Bland leaving Green Bank Elementary Middle School leaving the school for a position in the Pocahontas County Board of Education office. As part of the same interview, we also aired a story on 8/30 about the changing technological needs of the county schools. Bland is also the technology coordinator for the county schools.

On 9/15, we aired a story on new Green Bank Principal Melvin Lindsey.

On 9/20, we aired a story about the Green Bank Elementary Middle school getting a five thousand dollar grant from Dominion Power. This will enable the 7th grade math and science classes to study the habits of song birds at several feeders around the school.

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 7/12, 7/19, 7/26, 8/2, 8/9, 8/16, 8/23, 8/31, 9/6, 9/13, 9/20 and 9/27.

We air a periodic 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 8/5.

On 7/11, we aired an interview with Lynmarie Knight, who is working with the county Water Resource Task Force on a county wide water management plan. The task force is gathering information via a survey about water sources and uses throughout Pocahontas County.

On 7/13, we aired a story about an executive order issued by Acting West Virginia Governor Earl Ray Tomblin directing the West Virginia Dept of Environmental Protection to draft additional emergency rules concerning the practice of horizontal drilling used in the Marcellus Shale formation. This subject is of great importance to the residents of Pocahontas.

On 7/22, we aired a report about Virginia and West Virginia being listed in the National Resource Defense Councils top 20 most toxic states, largely due to coal burning power plants.

On 8/11, we aired a report about a Water Resource Task Force stakeholder meeting with local farmers.

Community

We air periodic reports about meetings of the Pocahontas Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees. This quarter these reports aired on 8/2 (auxiliary donations), 8/3 (134K loss), and 8/29 (continuing progress).

We air a weekly feature called Let's Dish which features recipes from our listeners. This quarter these features aired on 7/6, 7/13, 7/20, 7/27, 8/3, 8/10, 8/17, 8/24, 8/31, 9/7, 9/14, 9/21, and 9/28.

On 7/5, we aired a story about Barbara Lay who is taking over as CEO of Pocahontas Memorial Hospital in October, 2011. Lay has been working with the hospital through the auspices of Minnie Hamilton Health Systems to improve the efficiency of the rural hospital.

On 7/14, we aired a story about "Bonnie's Bus" a specialized bus that enables women in rural parts of West Virginia to have access to a Mammogram without having to travel a long distance to a larger urban area. The bus is sponsored by the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center.

On 7/18, we aired an interview with Janney Lockman, a Pocahontas County Graduate who is now a Fellow with the Stay Together Appalachian Youth (STAY) project, based in Whitesburg, Ky. The goal of the project is to encourage young people to come back home to help revitalize their communities.

On 7/27, we aired a story about five post offices that are on the possible closure list. They are Buckeye in Pocahontas, Bacova and Williamsville in Bath County and Headwaters and Doe Hill in Highland County.

On 8/1, we aired a story about Interim CEO Barbara Lay and her decision to leave Minnie Hamilton Health Systems to become the next CEO of Pocahontas Memorial Hospital.

On 9/6, we aired a story about a prescription drug abuse prevention meeting. This is an ongoing problem in Pocahontas, and many speakers talked about how to address it.

People

On 9/30, we aired an interview with Lee Ryder, a 2011 graduate of Pocahontas County HS who just finished US Marine basic training. He was visiting his home county as part of the "Hometown Recruitment" program and spoke with students at the high school. Ryder is also a former DJ for Allegheny Mountain Radio.

Jobs and Development

On 7/28 and 7/29, we aired parts one and two of an interview with Steve Weir, Executive Director of the Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation, the lead economic agency for Pocahontas County. Weir spoke about the economic future of the county, including the possibility of drilling for gas in this part of the state.

Arts and Culture

On 7/4, we aired an interview with local muralist Molly Must, a Pocahontas county native who painted a mural on a downtown Marlinton building. The mural depicts the county history of logging and also features words and a portrait of Louise McNeill Pease, a Pocahontas native and former West Virginia Poet Laureate.

We air a weekly feature called Visitors and Vacations that highlights different events and activities available to residents and tourists in Pocahontas County. This quarter this feature aired on 7/14, 7/25, 8/1, 8/8, 8/15, 8/22, 8/29, 9/5, 9/12, 9/19, and 9/26.

On 9/1, we aired a story about an old Rambler car showroom in Marlinton that has been converted into an art gallery by a non-profit county arts cooperative.

On 9/21, we aired a story about the grand opening of a Smithsonian Exhibit at the Marlinton Municipal building. The exhibit "The Way We Worked" chronicles the history of workers in the early part of the 20th century. The exhibit also includes a companion exhibit of the logging industry in Pocahontas.

On 9/26, we aired an interview with Food Channel Bizarre Foods host Andrew Zimmern, one of the judges for the annual Road Kill Cookoff in Marlinton.

Public Service Announcements

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

Education and Children

One Room University Open House	7/12 thru 7/18
Family Resources Network Safe Summer	7/12 thru 8/8
Pocahontas Water Use Survey/Meeting Notice	7/22 thru 8/22
Email Scam Alert	8/5 thru 9/4
Pocahontas Water Use Survey – survey only	8/8 thru 9/8
High Rocks For Girls Americorps Wanted	8/17 thru 8/31
Habitat for Humanity Americorps Position	9/1 thru 9/15
Mtn Heart Flowers to Childcare Providers Day	9/29 thru 10/17
Family Community Baby Shower	9/29 thru 10/14

Health and Human Resources

Mild Heat Injury	7/20 thru 8/19
Severe Heat Injury	7/20 thru 8/19
Animal Heat Injury	7/21 thru 8/21
Lighthouse Program	8/1 thru 9/2
VA Services at Dunmore Days	8/5 thru 8/20
Campus Fire Safety Awareness	8/5 thru 9/5
USDA IRS Deadline for Agricultural Producers	8/5 thru 9/4
Drug Town Hall Meeting	8/23 thru 9/1
USDA RMA Rain Insurance	8/29 thru 9/26
USDA RMA Grain Insurance	8/29 thru 9/29

Benefits and Fundraisers

Pocahontas Family Outreach – Backpack Giveaway	8/3 thru 8/16
Multiple Sclerosis Bike Ride	8/11 thru 8/19
Skate Park fundraiser	8/23 thru 9/18
Mtn Institute Run for the Hills	9/8 thru 10/8
Mtn Institute Trilogy	9/8 thru 10/6

Art, Culture, and Recreation

John McCutcheon At Opera House	7/12 thru 8/5
Breaking Up Is Hard to Do At Opera House	7/12 thru 7/29
White Pines Camp Revival	7/24 thru 7/29
Hunter Lesser AT Hillsboro Library – Civil War	7/31 thru 9/17
Kathy Mattea At Carnegie Hall	8/1 thru 9/9
Black Mtn Bluegrass Boys At Opera House	8/1 thru 9/3
Bluegrass Ticket Giveaway	8/12 thru 8/28

Smithsonian Exhibit – Dwight Diller	9/8 thru 9/30
Smithsonian Exhibit – Louise Pease McNeill	9/8 thru 10/1
Smithsonian Exhibit – All About Logging	9/8 thru 9/23
Smithsonian Exhibit – Viney Mtn Boys	9/8 thru 9/10
Smithsonian Exhibit – General info	9/8 thru 10/11
Living History at Travelers Repose	9/12 thru 10/7
Smithsonian Exhibit – John Wyatt	9/14 thru 10/14
Smithsonian Exhibit – Bill Hefner	9/14 thru 10/15
Cranberry Shindig Festival	9/16 thru 9/25
The Way She Worked With Words: Louise McNeill	9/22 thru 10/1
Smithsonian Exhibit – PCHS Students Reading	9/30 thru 10/6
At Opera House	