

## **WVMR, WVMR-FM, WNMP, WDMT Most Significant Issues 3rd Quarter – July through September 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 7/18, 7/19, 8/10, 8/13 (Alderman sues county officials), 8/22, 8/24, 9/5, 9/19, and 9/20.

During this quarter we aired stories about the Marlinton Town Council meetings. These stories aired on 8/7, 8/8, and 9/11.

On 7/9, we aired a report about Pocahontas County Emergency Services Director Melvin Martin being arrested and charged with DUI. Martin submitted his resignation following the incident, but after a closed door session, the County Commission elected to terminate his position rather than accept his resignation.

On 7/12, we aired a story about the 911 mapping and addressing system for the county and some of the new street names that will go into affect once approved by the US Postal service.

On 9/7, we aired a story about an effort to re-establish a Local Emergency Planning Committee in Pocahontas. In light of the derecho in June, the county Emergency Services Director thinks it prudent to re-activate this group.

### **Court**

On 8/8, we aired the list of indictments handed down by the August session of the Pocahontas county grand jury.

## Breaking News

On 6/29, a fast moving storm system called a Derecho tore through a large chunk of the mid eastern section of the US, leaving a path of destruction through several states before hitting the Allegheny Highlands, our listening area. The system brought 80 to 100 mile straight line winds that caused a considerable amount of damage to power lines throughout our coverage area. In light of the Derecho storm and the resulting severe power outages, most of our news coverage was focused on providing daily updates on electrical and phone service restoration and updates from emergency services regarding supplies of food, ice, cooling centers, showers, medical supplies and other necessities for those without power. This information was constantly updated throughout the first week of July as power was slowly restored to all parts of our listening area.

On 7/9, we aired a story about WV National Guard troops fanning out across the county to check on the elderly and infirm to make sure they had water, food, and medical supplies following the storm.

On 7/10, we aired an interview with a FEMA expert explaining the difference between a federal emergency declaration and a federal disaster declaration.

On 7/24, we aired a story about a rebate being offered by Frontier Communications for those who lost telephone and internet access in the aftermath of the storm. Some residents of the county have complained about rude and/or unhelpful service when calling in to report their outages.

On 7/25, we aired a story about Governor Tomblin seeking disaster declaration for the counties affected by the storm in an effort to get some financial relief/help for the storm cleanup.

On 7/26, we aired a report on a tanker truck crash in the northern part of Pocahontas county that threatened to spill a petroleum product into a nearby stream. The accident was cleaned up without harm to the stream or groundwater.

On 7/30, we aired a story about a request by West Virginia Governor Earl Ray Tomblin for individual disaster relief for losses incurred by the derecho.

On 8/13, we aired a story about an award presented to the National Radio Astronomy Observatory and the BFD Rescue squad by Associated Universities Inc. (AUI) for their help in aiding the community in the aftermath of the derecho.

## **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 7/12, 7/31, 8/1, 8/29, and 9/27.

## **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 7/11, 7/24, 7/26, 8/15, 9/12, 9/18, and 9/26.

On 7/11, we aired a story featuring two local health care experts talking about the benefits and drawbacks of the Obama administration health care law.

On 7/20, we aired an interview with former Pocahontas County teacher and educational consultant Janet McNeel, talking about her new book that discusses the importance of teaching good reading skills to kids of all ages.

## **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 7/3, 7/10, 7/17, 7/24, 7/31, 8/7, 8/14, 8/21, 8/28, 9/4, 9/11, 9/18, and 9/25.

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 7/18, 8/22, and 9/25.

On 9/13, we aired a story about a presentation made by the Superintendent of the Monongahela National Forest and their position on gas drilling on forest land.

### **Health Issues**

We air periodic reports about meetings of the Pocahontas Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees. This quarter these reports aired on 7/10.

On 8/14, we aired a story about the Pocahontas Memorial Hospital swing bed program.

On 9/17, we aired a story about the progress being made towards building a wellness and fitness center in Green Bank in northern Pocahontas County.

### **Community**

We air a weekly feature called Let's Dish which features recipes from our listeners. This quarter these features aired on 7/4, 7/11, 7/18, 7/25, 8/1, 8/8, 8/15, 8/22, 8/29, 9/5, 9/12, 9/19, and 9/26.

On 8/2, we aired a story about a concert at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, by students from the Garth Newel Music center in Bath County.

On 8/9, we aired a story about possible cuts to the Family Resource Network, a nonprofit organization that provides food and other necessities to low income families in the county.

On 8/21, we aired a story about an upcoming EMT-Basic course being offered in the county.

On 9/25, we aired a story about efforts of a coalition of individuals working on establishing a animal welfare group that addresses the needs of unwanted or abandoned animals in the three county area covered by AMR.

### **Jobs and Development**

On 8/20, we aired a story about a proposal by the National Science Foundation to fully divest their portfolio of the Green Bank Telescope over the next five years. The divestiture could have dire repercussions not only for the northern Pocahontas county community, but also for the larger scientific community if the divestiture causes the NRAO to limit access to the GBT. We aired a story about a second public meeting on this topic on 8/30 and another follow up meeting on 9/24.

On 9/4, we aired a profile of a new bakery that recently opened in northern Pocahontas County, the Dunmore County Mart and Bakery. After the closure of northern Pocahontas county business Meck's Bakery several years ago, residents are very happy to see this business open.

On 9/10, we aired a story about a new dental clinic opening in northern Pocahontas County. Because of the rural nature of the county, Pocahontas has been designated a medically underserved area when it comes to availability of dental care.

### **People**

On 7/17, we aired a profile of barber Vicki Croston who took over the business of long time barber Lefty Meeks, a beloved fixture in the former logging town of Cass.

On 8/3 and 8/6, we aired an interview with Lt. Jeff Price, of the WV National Guard and a Pocahontas county native, currently stationed in Afghanistan.

### **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 7/16, 7/23, 7/30, 8/6, 8/13, 8/20, 8/27, 9/3, 9/10, and 9/24.

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 West Virginia to Maryland. This quarter these stories 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 7/16, we aired a story containing comments from participants in a recent Harley Owners Group (HOG) rally held in the county. This is one of many events that bring a large number of people to the county creating a critical source of revenue for many businesses.

On 8/9, we aired an interview with blues legend John Mayall who was scheduled to play at Snowshoe Mtn resort for their annual blues weekend.

On 8/23, we aired a story about a day of bluegrass music being added to the lineup of the annual Camp Barefoot concert held in northern Pocahontas county. The lineup included local favorite bluegrass groups and an admission discount was offered to residents of Bath, Highland and Pocahontas counties.

JT Arbogast's grandmother lived in the town of Cass. He came to the county to film a movie about her struggles with Alzheimers disease. Several locals played either small roles or filled in as extras during the filming. We aired stories about this process on 8/28, 9/12, and 9/21.

On 9/6, we aired an interview with David Holt, a bluegrass and jazz enthusiast playing in concert at the Pocahontas County Opera House.

On 9/27, we aired a story about singer/songwriter Judith Avers leading a song writing school at the High Rocks Academy, a nonprofit that tutors girls and boys from Pocahontas, Greenbrier and Nicholas counties.

### **Public Service Announcements**

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

#### **Education and Children**

STAY Summer Institute	7/13 thru 7/23
Pearl Buck Medicinal Plant Program	9/5 thru 9/16

#### **Health and Human Resources**

FEMA Disaster Reporting	7/13 thru 7/20
Veterans Crisis Phone Line	7/23 thru 8/30

#### **Benefits and Fundraisers**

Clifton Forge School of Arts ticket giveaway	9/12 thru 9/14
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#### **Art, Culture, and Recreation**

Pocahontas Opera House-Why do Fools Fall In Love	7/19 thru 8/18
Pocahontas Opera House - Shelly, Moore in concert	7/19 thru 8/11
Pocahontas Opera House - Blk Mtn Bluegrass Boys	8/1 thru 9/1
Pocahontas Opera House - Holt and Goforth concert	8/1 thru 9/8
Pearl Buck Family Garden Tour	8/15 thru 8/19
Travelers Repose Historic Program	9/26 thru 10/6
Autumn Harvest Entertainment	9/26 thru 9/29
Autumn Harvest Hammons	9/26 thru 9/29
Huntersville Traditions – Extras	9/26 thru 10/6
Huntersville Traditions – General	9/26 thru 10/6
Huntersville Traditions – Music	9/26 thru 10/6
Pocahontas Opera House – Mick Souter	9/26 thru 10/5
Pearl Buck Chinese Moon Festival	9/28 thru 10/7