

## PUBLIC ISSUES

January 1 – March 31, 2019

Jan. 5 8:30am-9:00am John Wyatt, the Appalachian, presented a program on Meadow River Lumber Company history and contributions to our area. This included history of the Meadow River Coal and Land Co. and the building of the C & O Railroad and the Greenbrier and Eastern Railroad. The Meadow River Lumber Co. was one of the largest hardwood mills in the country. Work, including flood repair, is continuing on the Meadow River Trail which extends from Nallen to Rainelle.( The old railroad beds are used for the trail). A trails head is being planned for the Rainelle area which should bring economic improvements as well as recreational activity for our area.

Jan. 19 8:30am-9:00am John Wyatt, The Appalachian, presented a program on flood recovery efforts for our area. Several groups are working to help people who are still in need of housing and assistance in cleaning up our area. The Meadow River Valley Association and Gbr. Economic Development are working on several projects for area. Also, a preview of activities in our area included a Winter Music Festival scheduled for 1/26 in Lewisburg and The General Store in Sandstone will host mountain music and food on Friday nights 6-8pm.

Jan 19 8:30am-9:00am John Wyatt, The Appalachian, presented a program on getting involved in the Appalachian Heritage Group which also works to brings assistance to people in need. Discusses the effects of drugs on youth and prescription drugs on senior citizens. Discusses the need of jobs for our area as many of the coal mines are no longer employing as many people.

Feb. 2 8:30am-9:00am John Wyatt, the Appalachian, presented a program on W.Va. natural resources including trees and especially Ramps which is a spring tonic. The Festival of the Ramps in Richwood is always a big celebration as well as many other dinners throughout our area. And Ramps are being harvested and sent to very nice restruants in state as well as other states. In giving a review of activities in our area, the addition of square dancing at the General Store on Fridays nights is now an attraction as well as the old mountain instruments being played in the band.

Feb. 9 8:30am-9:00am John Wyatt, the Appalachian, presented a program on Appalachian Culture and invites public to the class he is teaching regarding culture of our area. Sheppard Center has classes at the Lewisburg Methodist Church and the First Baptist Church in Rainelle throughout the year. A variety of classes are taught and donations are accepted and that includes lunch. Sheppard Center has an outreach including delivery of meals, etc.

Feb. 16 8:30am-9:00am John Wyatt, the Appalachian, presented a program on social problems and how society has changed through the years with an emphasis on family, church, community, and work opportunities. He provided information on food pantries, drug recovery programs, and other nonprofit organizations in our area.

Feb. 23 8:30am-9:00am John Wyatt, the Appalachian, presented a program on midwives and company doctors service to the community in the past. Mentioned the Rainelle Medical Center (a federally funded facility) and how it has increased its services over the years.

March 2 8:30am-9:00am John Wyatt, the Appalachian, presented a program on the Old Hospital in Rainelle and old wives tales that midwives used. Betty Crookshanks told of her grandmother's story of Betty's birth at the hospital. Also discussed the upcoming Hunger Summit and the Committee on Aging. The upcoming Community gathering will give a progress report on activities on economic and flood recovery for our area. Need to make a reservation, dinner will now be \$10.00 as the grant did not get renewed for the community gathering.

March 9 8:30am-9:00am John Wyatt, the Appalachian, presented a program on Greenbrier River, the longest unobstructed river in our area. Gave overview of the Sheppard Center classes available during spring session. He talked about Gloria Martin working with the Committee on Aging and the Hunger Summit and the effects of poverty on our lives. Legislature is working on teacher pay raises and W. Va needs good teachers.

March 16 8:30am-9:00am John Wyatt, the Appalachian, presented a program on flood recovery with FEMA and National Guard coming back into area. Discusses loss of jobs to our area. Discusses the books: "Night Comes to the Cumberlands" and "Watches of Night". Also, discusses book written about Hominy Falls Mine Disaster which happened about 50 years ago. Area has an aging population which brings problems of health care, retirement incomes, rising prices.

March 23 8:30am-9:00am John Wyatt, the Appalachian, presented a program on working with college students this week who is in area to help those who need repairs on homes, cleaning up, etc. Reminds us that the Hunger Crisis Meeting will be at the Committee on Aging in Rupert this Tuesday and the Community Gathering will be at the Fruits of Labor in Rainelle on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

March 30 8:30am-9:00am John Wyatt, the Appalachian, presented a program on Coal Mining Disaster at Hominy Falls about 50 years ago in which some miners were rescued after 10 days. Also, discussed problems of unfinished flood recovery and the drug addiction in our area.

