

## **WVMR Most Significant Issues 1st Quarter – January through March 2021**

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 1/6 (PMH loan approved), 1/21 (broadband council), 2/4 (contributions), 2/18 (PMH land purchase), 2/19, 3/4 (PMH HVAC grant), and 3/22 (COVID funding).

### **Court /Crime/Breaking News**

On 1/12, we aired a story about a northern Pocahontas County couple who have been charged with abuse and neglect of an elementary aged child.

### **Election Stories**

### **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 on 1/8 (return to in-person learning), 1/19, 2/22, 2/24, 3/11 and 3/12 (Book controversy), and 3/16.

We air occasional interviews with the Pocahontas County Superintendent of Schools, Terrence Beam. It allows Mr. Beam to expand on topics important to the county students and their families. During this quarter, these stories aired on 2/11, 2/12, and 3/19.

On 3/18, we aired a story about the annual 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Luncheon, held each year at Snowshoe Mountain Resort. In addition to eating lunch with community and business representatives from the county, the students also attend a series of seminars about business and education opportunities.

## **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 on 1/8, 2/10, and 3/12.

## **Community**

On 2/3, we aired a story about an expansion of the enrollment period under Healthcare.gov in both Virginia and West Virginia due to COVID-19.

On 3/3, we aired a story about a presentation to the WV legislature about WV Sexual Violence Awareness Day.

On 3/24, we aired a story about the WV Dept of Health and Human Resources opening an application window for the Emergency Low Income Energy Assistance Program to help those who may need help paying their heating bills.

On 3/31, we aired a story about expanded enrollment to sign up for healthcare through Healthcare.gov and the WV Navigator programs that assists residents to help them select the best plan for themselves and their families.

## **People**

On 3/2, we aired an interview with Jeanette Robinson, a long-time volunteer with AMR and this year’s STAR award winner. STAR is an acronym for the Steve Terry Area Resource award, given in memory of AMR volunteer Steve Terry to a volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to the AMR network.

## **Jobs and Development**

### **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 1/20 (eliminating the death penalty in VA), 2/3, 2/24, 2/25, 3/9 (legalizing marijuana in VA), 3/16, 3/24 and 3/25 (Outdoor education).

## **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 1/4/21, 1/11, 1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, and 3/29.

During this quarter we aired a feature called *Travelers In The Night*, about asteroids, comets and other interstellar phenomena. This feature aired on 1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, and 3/25.

This quarter we aired a feature called Recipe Roundup, featuring various recipes for all kinds of foods. This feature is produced entirely by AMR staff. During this quarter this feature aired on 1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, and 3/26.

On 3/5, we aired an interview with Cara Rose, Executive Director of the Pocahontas County Convention and Visitors Bureau about a tourism scholarship sponsored by the CVB and offered to seniors at the county high school.

On 3/30, we aired a feature about the history of firefighting in the Town of Durbin in the early 1900's.

### **Public Service Announcements**

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

#### **Education and Children**

Grow Appalachia 2021	1/12 thru 1/25	
WV FASFA Application Help	2/24 thru 6/30	
Frontier Customer Scam	3/8 thru 3/31	
National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week PSAs:	3/16 thru 3/28	*Students shared drug facts
Alan – LSD		
Autumn – Opioid abuse		
Ben – Underage drinking		
Cheylin – Methamphetamine		
Ciera – MDMA (Ecstasy or Molly)		
Emma – Tobacco (Vaping)		
Haley – Marijuana		
Sara – Alcohol		
Savannah – Drug overdose deaths		

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

WV Mask Mandate	1/14 thru 3/30
WV Low Income Energy Assistance	1/15 thru 1/29
Healthcare.gov Special Enrollment	3/1 thru 5/15

#### **Benefits and Fundraisers**

#### **Art, Culture, and Recreation**