# WVMR, WVMR-FM, WNMP, WDMT Most Significant Issues 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter – October Through December 2014

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 10/13, 12/9 (RAD alternative), and 12/23 (David Fleming's last meeting).

# **Court /Crime/Breaking News**

On 12/10 we aired a report about the indictments handed down after the December session of the Pocahontas County Grand Jury.

#### **Election Stories**

In October we aired a series of Meet the Candidates programs with the candidates running for Pocahontas County Commissioner (northern and southern district seats), West Virginia State Senate and West Virginia House of Delegates. We aired excerpts from these programs on 10/16 (House of Delegates), and 10/17 (improving broadband access).

On 10/8 we aired a story about a proposed school levy that would appear on the ballot for the November general election. We aired a follow up story on 10/15 that included comments on the levy proposal from the candidates vying for the position of County Commissioner in the general election.

We aired a live call-in show on the proposed levy on 10/29. We aired stories about the program on 10/30 and 10/31.

On 11/5 we aired the November general election results as recorded for Pocahontas County and for the state of West Virginia.

#### **News Briefs**

On 10/9 we aired a news brief on an upcoming scheduled power outage that would affect a large part of the population in the county. This was aired for several days prior to the scheduled outage.

On 10/17 we aired a news brief about another scheduled power outage affecting a significant number of county residents. This aired 10/17 through 10/20.

#### 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 10/20, 10/29, 11/11, 12/11, and 12/19 (county spelling bee).

On 10/13 we aired a story on the One Room University in Marlinton, a satellite campus of New River Community and Technical College. The ORU allows students in Pocahontas to take college level classes without having to travel 1 ½ to 2 hours to the other campuses of NRCTC, which can be a hardship for many residents of the county.

On 12/8 we aired an interview with the new director of the National Youth Science Camp, held each summer in Pocahontas County. Each year the camp brings teens from every state for intensive scientific study and outdoorsman-ship.

## **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 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23, and 12/30.

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 10/9, 11/18, 11/26, and 12/4.

We began airing a series of stories about a proposed natural gas pipeline that would travel through parts of Pocahontas and Highland Counties, on a path that would take

the pipeline from the shale fields of northern West Virginia through Virginia with the terminus of the pipeline in western North Carolina. Dominion Resources and Duke Energy, in partnership with two other companies are in the process of studying the feasibility of the pipeline. During this quarter, these stories covering events in both Pocahontas and Highland Counties ran on 10/7 (Dominion open house), 11/7 (mtg in Mill Creek), 11/13 (AMR pipeline survey), 11/18 (mtg at NRAO), 12/19 (USFS seeking comments on ACP), and 12/26 (Monongahela National forest seeking pipeline comments).

## Community

We air periodic stories about the Pocahontas County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and their activities in the county. During this quarter, the stories aired on 11/14.

On 10/2 we aired a story about a small scale version of the Vietnam War memorial in Washington that was on tour in West Virginia. Pocahontas has an active Vietnam Veterans group.

On 10/3 we aired a story about a visit from a producer and presenter from BBC 4. They were in the area to do an in depth radio story about Green Bank and the National Radio Quiet Zone. They included interviews with radio station staff as part of their research. The finished product is scheduled to air sometime in 2015.

On 10/21 we aired a story about future scheduled power outages in Pocahontas by provider Mon Power, who said the outages are necessary to ensure that residents will experience more reliable power during the cold winter months.

On 12/18 we aired a story about the results of the annual Christmas Bird Count held each year in December in Pocahontas County.

On 12/24 we aired a story about the Pocahontas Family Resource Network Angel Tree (which provides Christmas gifts to low income families) and their Food Pantry.

### **People**

## 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 10/2, 10/10 (stopping pipeline in Floyd), 10/14 (Virginia senate debate excerpt), 10/23, 10/28 (monitoring Ebola), 11/4, 11/11, 11/17, 12/3, and 12/18 (Legislation on mental health – Deeds bill).

## West Virginia Public Radio

We occasionally air stories produced by West Virginia Public Radio. Like the stories from VPR, these stories give AMR an additional source of well-produced state news. This quarter, these stories aired on

## **Jobs and Development**

On 10/29 we aired a story about the West Virginia State Rail Authority taking over management of the tourist trains at Cass Scenic state park.

On 11/4 we aired a story about Hamer Lumber company buying Cramer Lumber in Marlinton. Cramer has been in business many years, but in recent years had seen a decline in demand and was forced to close the sawmill side of the business. Hamer has vowed to reopen the sawmill while keeping the existing dry kilns working as well.

On 12/4 we aired a story about the reopening of the Dirt Bean, a local coffee shop that was lost in a fire in November 2013 that destroyed half a city block of apartments and businesses in Marlinton. Dirt Bean owner Christy Lanier lost her home and business both in the fire.

On 12/16 we aired a story about changes to the state commercial driver's license [CDL] that would also require additional health screening for commercial drivers.

#### **Arts and Culture**

We air a periodic feature called the Travelling Rt 219 project in which we hear interviews and stories from those who grew up or live on US Rt 219 that winds its way from Virginia through West Virginia and on to Maryland. During this quarter, these stories aired on 10/24, 11/21, 12/12, 12/19, and 12/29.

During this quarter we began airing a new feature during Noon Hour Magazine on the Monday program – *Reel Discovery*. This feature aired on 11/24, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22, and 12/29.

On 10/22 we aired a story about a fundraiser for the non-profit Pocahontas Opera House which would be held at a local restaurant and include dishes prepared by local chefs and music by local musicians.

On 11/7 we aired a story about the Raya Brass Band appearing at the Pocahontas Opera House in Marlinton.

On 11/19 we aired a story about singer/songwriter Kim Kalman appearing at the Pocahontas Opera House.

On 12/5 we aired a story about Kyle Carey, a singer/songwriter fluent in Gaelic appearing at the Pocahontas Opera House. Some of Carey's songs are based on the poetry of Louise McNeill, a native of Pocahontas County and a former WV State Poet Laureate.

## **Public Service Announcements**

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

# **Education and Children**

AMR Pipeline Survey 10/2 thru 10/31

## **Health and Human Resources**

Pocahontas Prevention – Underage Drinking 12/8 thru 12/31

# **Benefits and Fundraisers**

## Art, Culture, and Recreation

Wesley Chapel Blue Christmas Service 12/11 thru 12/20