

WVMR-FM Most Significant Issues April through June 2023

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 4/5 (Handley property), 4/25 (PMH water & sewer), 5/5 (new EMS service), 5/19 (power pole agreement), 6/12 (reduced funding for non-profits), 6/29, and 6/30 (new courthouse annex).

On 4/7, we aired a story about a meeting of the county's Solid Waste Authority. They are grappling with vandalism at some of the Green Box (trash) sites and a decreasing market value for recyclables.

On 4/13, we aired a story about changes in the programs offered by the WV Dept of Health and Human Resources.

During this quarter, we aired stories based on meetings of the Pocahontas Solid Waste Authority. These stories aired on 5/2 (raising the Green Box (trash) fee), 5/23 (discussions about current landfill),

Court /Crime/Breaking News

On 4/18, we aired a story about criminal charges being filed in a fatal traffic accident. Tony Alan Garretson was charged with failure to control his vehicle, a dump truck, that ran a stop sign and rolled over on a Chevrolet Bolt, killing the driver Darren Jackson, and his son Ryan.

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 4/26 (Grow your own prgm), 5/25 (outstanding math scores), and 6/8 (open teaching positions).

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 6/1 (stepping down as Superintendent), and 6/21 (last interview as Superintendent).

On 4/5, we aired a story about a weather balloon being launched by the 7th & 8th grade classes at Green Bank middle school. Local middle and high school students designed various experiments to go into the payload of the balloon.

On 4/27, we aired a follow-up story about the Green Bank balloon launch with some of the students reporting on the results of their experiments.

On 5/1, we aired a story about various student competitions that students at Green Bank Elementary Middle school have been taking part in since the beginning of the year.

On 5/9, we aired a story about the 2023 Pocahontas Super Scholars, students who have achieved high academic honors during the 2022-2023 school year.

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 4/11 and 6/5.

During this quarter, we aired segments of a gardening journal called Nature’s Way produced by volunteer Karen Cohen who is a master gardener. These segments aired on 4/7, 4/14, 4/21, 4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26, 6/2, 6/9, 6/16, 6/23, and 6/30.

On 5/10, we aired an interview with High Rocks Farm manager Casey Withers about the Ruby Grow program. Ruby Grow is a summer employment program for teenagers in the county that teaches them how to grow and market fruits and vegetables.

On 5/16, we aired an interview with Will Fields, the forest farming manager at the Yew Mountain Center in Hillsboro about the upcoming WV Forest Farming Field Day. This event is an opportunity for residents and visitors to learn more about growing forest botanicals to earn extra income from their land.

On 5/17 and 5/18, we aired a two-part interview with Sandor Katz, a fermentation specialist who will be doing a lecture on the subject at Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg.

On 6/20, we aired a story about various construction and maintenance projects in the Monongahela National Forest receiving federal funding. The Mon Forest covers a significant part of Pocahontas County.

Community

On 4/17, we aired a story about the US Forest Service seeking Christmas ornaments for the National Christmas Tree in Washington, D.C. this December. This year, the tree will come from the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia, so residents of the state are being asked to provide hand-made ornaments for the tree representing the state.

On 4/20, we aired a story about a Mommy Support Group, a project to support new mothers offered by the Family Resource Network.

On 5/12, we aired a story about an upcoming meeting sponsored by the Friends of the Hillsboro Library. The meeting will address how residents can be prepared for a range of natural disasters and what supplies they should always have on hand.

On 5/26, we aired a story about the US Forest Service seeking hand-made Christmas tree skirts from WV residents that will be used at the White House during the Christmas season.

On 5/27, we aired a story about a collaboration between Pocahontas Memorial Hospital and Charleston Area Medical Center, located in Charleston, WV, to provide telemedicine appointments to residents of the county. This may enable residents to see and consult with specialists without having to make the 3-4 hour drive to Charleston.

On 6/7, we aired a story about a congressional hearing on AM radio. Many car manufacturers are reluctant to continue to offer AM radio in new vehicles due to possible interference with other vehicle electronics. However, many speakers at the hearing made clear their support of continuing to offer AM radio. This is of importance to our stations and many other stations across the country who continue to offer this service to our listeners.

People

On 6/23, we aired an interview with Pocahontas County Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director Cara Rose about her impending retirement. She has been with the CVB for almost a decade as the Executive Director and has been instrumental in the growth of the tourism industry in the county.

Jobs and Development

We air periodic reports from the meetings of the Pocahontas County Broadband Council. The council is made up of a broad cross-section of county residents seeking to improve broadband access in the county for all residents. During this quarter, we aired stories from the council meetings on 4/14 (RDOF restrictions), 5/4 (2nd anniversary of the groups formation), 5/30 (WV state council drops rural reps in favor of urban reps), and 6/13 (BEAD program).

We air occasional interviews with Cara Rose, Executive Director of the Pocahontas County Convention and Visitors Bureau about tourism related topics. The tourism industry is a major economic driver in Pocahontas. During this quarter, these stories aired on 2/14, and 3/13.

On 5/11, we aired a story about Josh Nease, recently named as the first Executive Director of the Mon Forest Towns collective, representing 10 towns in West Virginia that lie within the borders of the Monongahela National Forest. The towns work together to promote tourism and cooperation across various platforms and social media.

On 5/22, we aired a story about the annual Pocahontas Tourism Summit, an opportunity for businesses and non-profits to gather and talk about promoting tourism, an important economic driver in the county.

On 6/16, we aired a new business profile about the Hillsboro Public House. The restaurant is housed in a former general store that has been restored.

On 6/22, we aired a story about grants available through the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area grants program. The AFNHA covers 18 West Virginia counties, including Pocahontas.

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 4/4 (gun safety law), 4/11 (free tuition), 4/24 (small reactors), and 6/19 (snake bites).

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 4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24, 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22, 5/29, 6/5, 6/12, 6/19, and 6/26.

During this quarter we aired a feature called *Travelers in the Night*, about asteroids, comets and other interstellar phenomena. This feature aired on 4/6, 4/13, 4/20, 4/27, 5/4, 5/11, 5/18, 5/25, 6/1, 6/8, 6/15, 6/22, and 6/29.

This quarter we began airing StoryCorps, a feature that tells the stories of people from across the country who share stories with loved ones. This feature aired during this quarter on 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/10, 5/17, 5/24, 5/30, 6/14, 6/21, and 6/28.

Public Service Announcements

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

Education and Children

WV Jury Scam
Poc SWA Stops Recycling July 1st

5/19 thru 6/30
6/5 thru 7/1

Health and Human Resources

Avian Flu Warning

1/19 – ongoing

Benefits and Fundraisers

Art, Culture, and Recreation

Allegheny Mountain Radio App

Ongoing