

# ARKANSAS PBS FCC QUARTERLY REPORT

## Issues / Programs

Time Period: **July – September 2023**

Entered into Public Files on:

**October 10, 2023**

Contact: David Elmore

Arkansas PBS Studio Operations, Video Systems Technician, Station Archivist & Historian  
501-682-4198, [delmore@myarkansaspbs.org](mailto:delmore@myarkansaspbs.org)

This is the FCC Quarterly Report to be included in the Public Files. Arkansas PBS Management has determined the following issues to be significant within the service areas of its six (6) television transmitters (covering most of the state of Arkansas) for the time period: **July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023**.

Arkansas PBS's six (6) television transmitters are:

- KAFT-13 / Fayetteville
- KEMV-6 / Mountain View
- KETG-9 / Arkadelphia
- KETS-2 / Little Rock
- KETZ-12 / El Dorado
- KTEJ-19 / Jonesboro

The following list of example programs illustrates how Arkansas PBS addressed these key issues:

1. Arts & Culture
2. Education
3. Economics
4. Environment
5. Government / Politics / Law

- 6. Health / Health Care
- 7. Minority Issues

## 1. ARTS & CULTURE

### Exploring Arkansas

Airdate: July 6 – September 28, 2023  
Airtime: 4:30 & 5:00 p.m.  
Program Length: 30 minutes

Before coming to Arkansas PBS, Chuck Dovish was mainly known for his "Travelin' Arkansas" segments which aired on KTHV-Channel 11 for more than 25 years. Since October of 2005, Chuck has been producing and hosting "Exploring Arkansas" which showcases all the high adventure the Natural State has to offer. This one-of-a-kind program features the most breathtaking and spectacular sights in Arkansas. There's extreme adventure like hang gliding, kayaking, rappelling, rock climbing, wild caving and not to mention some of Arkansas's best kept secrets such as secluded and scenic waterfalls.

Chuck has been exploring Arkansas for more than 40 years and continues to surprise and entertain viewers with his sights and subjects. His philosophy throughout the years has always been to illuminate the culture and heritage of Arkansas, in addition to conservation and preservation of the pristine outdoors of the Natural State. Exploring Arkansas was the 2009 recipient of the Sierra Club Conservation Award. Chuck says he's always trying to promote our great state in any way, shape, or form that he can.

### Cooking on the Wild Side

Airdate: July 6 – September 28, 2023  
Airtime: 7:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.  
Program Length: 30 minutes

"Cooking on the Wild Side" brings back Phyllis Speer and John Philpot with mouthwatering recipes and endearing banter from the original "Arkansas Outdoors" series. Each episode of this refreshing, cooking-only series will feature three recipes with this unforgettable pair. Revisit some of Speer's best loved dishes from over the years.

## **Homegrown**

Airdate: September 28, 2023  
Airtime: 7:00 p.m.  
Program Length: 60 minutes

Our newest series "Homegrown," celebrating all things Arkansas and introducing you to the unique people and communities that help preserve the legacy we all share in our home state. We'll welcome guests from some of our local stories, live in the studio.

## **Dairy Bars: Neat Eats and Cool Treats**

Airdate: July 4, 2023  
Airtime: 9:00 p.m.  
Program Length: 60 minutes

A popular mid-century sight all across America, dairy bars have thrived during the COVID-19 pandemic. The nature of dairy bars – restaurants where customers generally order ice cream and burgers outdoors through a window – has boosted business in a time of limited indoor dining options.

Join host Kat Robinson – Arkansas food historian, author, travel writer and enthusiastic foodie – as she visits dairy bars in every corner of the state to compile a culinary tour guide.

Whether you're nostalgic for the dairy bars of your youth or looking for a new dinner destination, "Arkansas Dairy Bars: Neat Eats and Cool Treats" is sure to whet your appetite.

## **Southern Storytellers**

Airdate: July 18, 2023  
Airtime: 8:00 p.m.  
Program Length: 60 minutes

"Southern Storytellers," a three-episode series, premiering July 18 at 8 p.m., from PBS and Peabody Award-winning filmmaker Craig Renaud, follows some of the South's most compelling and influential contemporary creators to the places they call home — the communities that fertilize the stories they tell in books, songs, poems, plays and on screens large and small.

Among "Southern Storytellers'" 17 storytellers, four feature Arkansas flavor: songwriter Justin Moore, songwriter/screenwriter/actor Billy Bob Thornton, songwriter/actor Mary Steenburgen and screenwriter Qui Nguyen.

JUSTIN MOORE

Born and raised in Poyen, Arkansas, multi-platinum, chart-topping country star Justin Moore built his career playing by his own rules, favoring an old-school approach. Moore landed his first country No. 1 song with “Small Town USA,” his breakthrough single off his 2009 self-titled debut. The record went platinum, as did his follow-up 2011 record, “Outlaws Like Me,” which yielded another No. 1 single. Following his first two releases, Moore established himself as one of modern country’s most reliable artists, landing nine more No. 1s, winning New Artist of the Year at the ACM Awards and racking up more than a billion streams.

#### BILLY BOB THORNTON

Born in Hot Springs, Arkansas, the charismatic and uniquely talented Billy Bob Thornton has carved out an extensive and impressive career in motion pictures, TV, and theater. Thornton is an Academy Award-winning writer, actor, director, and musician and is currently seeing a high-water mark in his career. Thornton most recently starred in the fourth and final season of his Amazon series “Goliath,” for which his performance received rave reviews and garnered him a Golden Globe Award for Best Actor in a Television Drama.

#### MARY STEENBURGEN

Mary Steenburgen, born in Newport, Arkansas, is an Academy Award- and Golden Globe-winning actress best known for her works in the films “Melvin and Howard,” “What’s Eating Gilbert Grape,” “Stepbrothers” and “Book Club” as well as TV shows “Justified,” “Orange is the New Black,” “Curb Your Enthusiasm” and “The Last Man On Earth.” Not only is Steenburgen a songwriter for Universal Music Group and was recently shortlisted for an Academy Award for Best Original Song, “Glasgow (No Place Like Home),” which she co-wrote and appeared in the film “Wild Rose.” “Glasgow” received the Critic’s Choice Award and the Hollywood Critics Association Award for Best Original Song.

#### QUI NGUYEN

Originally from south Arkansas, Qui Nguyen is a Vietnamese American filmmaker, playwright and co-founder of the New York-based theatre company, Vampire Cowboys. Notable works include his plays “Vietgone” and “Poor Yella Rednecks,” which centered on his parent’s love story, “She Kills Monsters.” It continues to be one of the most produced plays in colleges and high schools across America. Other notable works include Disney films “Strange World” and the Oscar-nominated “Raya and the Last Dragon.”

Craig Renaud is known for character-driven cinema verité filmmaking. His work has aired on PBS, HBO, NBC, The Discovery Channel, The New York Times, ESPN, and VICE. Renaud has won a Peabody Award, two Columbia DuPont Awards, two Overseas Press Club Awards, an IDA Award, a Webby, an Edward R. Murrow Award, an Emmy Award, a DGA nomination and multiple Emmy nominations. Craig and his brother Brent founded the Little Rock Film Festival and the Arkansas Motion Picture institute.

#### SOUTHERN SOUNDS

In addition to the three-part broadcast series, “Southern Storytellers” includes a six-part series on PBS Digital Studios that explores the powerful role of place in the lyrics of Southern songwriters: Carrie Rodriguez, Gabe Lee, Marlowe, S.G. Goodman, Tank and the Bangas and Valerie June.

## 2. EDUCATION

### **Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood**

Airdate: July 3 – September 29, 2023  
Airtime: 8:30 a.m.  
Program Length: 30 minutes

This weekday award-winning animated children's television series targets preschool-aged children. Two 11-minute segments are linked by a common socio-emotional theme, such as disappointment and sadness or anger, or being thankful and appreciative. The theme also uses a musical motif phrase, which the show calls "strategy songs", to reinforce the theme and help children remember the life lessons.

### **Sesame Street**

Airdate: July 3 – September 29, 2023  
Airtime: 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.  
Program Length: 30 minutes

This award-winning weekday series delivers academic and social education that prepares kids for grade school. Since its premiere, the show's base curriculum has been set by academic research on preschoolers. Encore episodes focus on music and art and how these tools can be used to develop the whole child – the cognitive, social, emotional, and physical attributes.

In addition, the "*Elmo's World*" segment looks at the world through the eyes of a three-year-old, continues as a featured segment. Themes include birthdays, pets, teeth, families, games and more.

### **Wild Kratts**

Airdate: July 3 – September 29, 2023

Airtime: 6:00 a.m.  
Program Length: 30 minutes

The weekday show's aim is to educate children about biology, zoology, and ecology, and teach kids small ways to make big impacts. The basic plot of an episode is usually to save the animals or an animal from a situation, be it villains, general human influence, or confusion on a baby animal's part.

### **Rise & Shine 2023**

Airdate: July 18 – August 17, 2023  
Airtime: 8:30 a.m.  
Program Length: 120 minutes

“Rise and Shine” is an educational program aligned to state academic standards and designed to boost learning for PreK-5 students to mitigate potential learning loss during school breaks. The program – featuring lessons with some of Arkansas's best teachers – reinforces learning in key subjects including literacy, math, science, and social studies.

## **3. ECONOMICS**

### **America’s Heartland**

Airdate: July 2 – September 17, 2023  
Airtime: 11:00 a.m.  
Program Length: 30 minutes

This weekly magazine-style series give consumers an inside look at the people and processes involved in bringing food, fuel, and fiber to those in the United States and around the world. The series’ producers and reporters have brought viewers informative and compelling stories about farm families, agricultural technology, consumer issues, animal welfare, environmental concerns, organic farming, and crop sustainability to demonstrate the impact that American agriculture has on a global economy.

## 4. ENVIRONMENT

### **Nature**

Airdate: July 5 – August 23, 2023  
Airtime: 7:00 p.m.  
Program Length: 60 minutes

This award-winning wildlife television program consists of documentaries about various animals and ecosystems. Consistently stunning documentaries transport viewers to far-flung locations ranging from the torrid African plains to the chilly splendors of icy Antarctica. The show's primary focus is on animals and ecosystems around the world.

### **NOVA**

Airdate: July 5 – September 27, 2023  
Airtime: 8:00 p.m.  
Program Length: 60 minutes

This award-winning science series is the most-watched prime time science series on American television, reaching an average of five million viewers weekly. Now in its fourth decade of production, the series remains committed to producing in-depth science programming in the form of one-hour documentaries and long-form mini-series, from the latest breakthroughs in technology to the deepest mysteries of the natural world.

### **America Outdoors with Baratunde Thurston "Arkansas: Hidden Gems"**

Airdate: September 13, 2023  
Airtime: 7:00 p.m.  
Program Length: 60 minutes

In Arkansas, just about everyone you meet is into the outdoors, yet to many outside the state it barely registers as an outdoor destination. Now, it's on a mission to earn recognition as a wild mecca. Baratunde heads south to find out why this hidden gem has stayed hidden for so long, and how its outdoor culture is changing.

## **5. GOVERNMENT / POLITICS / LAW**

### **Arkansas Week: 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year**

Airdate: July 7 – September 29, 2023  
Airtime: 7:30 p.m.  
Program Length: 30 minutes

Arkansas Week, an Arkansas PBS weekly production, is the longest running public affairs program in Arkansas, featuring veteran journalist Steve Barnes (supplemented periodically by journalists; Donna Terrell, Christina Munoz, and Dawn Scott) and a dedicated, distinguished group of Arkansas journalists, experts, newsmakers, lawmakers, government, business, and civic leaders giving knowledge and insight on the political, governmental, legal, economic, and social issues of interest to Arkansans in the news.

Every third Friday of the month a segment called “Good Roots” is devoted to the agricultural matters of Arkansas’s largest industry. Episodes are repeated the following Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

### **BBC World News**

Airdate: July 5 – September 28, 2023  
Airtime: 10:00 p.m.  
Program Length: 30 minutes

This series from the British Broadcasting Corporation features current political events around the world and in the USA from an international viewpoint.

### **PBS NewsHour**

Airdate: July 3 – September 29, 2023  
Airtime: 6:00 p.m.  
Program Length: 1 hour

This award-winning program is known for its in-depth coverage of issues and current events with a highly objective and thoughtful approach and goes beyond the headline journalism of most broadcast television and partisanship of most cable news channels.

## **Washington Week**

Airdate: July 7 – September 29, 2023

Airtime: 7:00 p.m.

Program Length: 30 minutes

This long-running PBS public affairs series featured Washington's top journalists analyzing the week's top news stories, and their effect on the lives of all Americans.

## **Firing Line with Margaret Hoover**

Airdate: July 2 – September 17, 2023

Airtime: 9:30 a.m.

Program Length: 30 minutes

Firing Line with Margaret Hoover is a refreshing reprisal of William F. Buckley's iconic PBS program, a smart, civil, and engaging contest of ideas. The series maintains the character of the original, providing a platform that is diligent in its commitment to civility and the rigorous exchange of opinion. Firing Line with Margaret Hoover comes at a time when meaningful discourse is needed more than ever. Interviews and debates will highlight leading lights from the left and right, complemented by archival footage from the original Firing Line to remind viewers of longstanding conservative and liberal arguments, where they've been disproved or reinforced over time.

It is an opportunity to engage in the debate about the America that we want to create for the 21st century — and summon Americans of every political persuasion to a rigorous examination of the choices we must make together in the challenging years ahead.

Margaret Hoover is an American political commentator. In addition, she is also an author, feminist, and gay rights activist. Currently, she works as a political commentator for CNN.

## **6. HEALTH / HEALTHCARE**

### **Classical Stretch**

Airdate: July 1 – September 30, 2023  
Airtime: 5:30 a.m.  
Program Length: 30 minutes

With a focus on overall wellness as well as physical fitness, Classical Stretch belongs to a new generation of exercise programming. Each episode features a new method of stretching the entire body, gently and artistically – the first comprehensive, overall stretching program created for public television.

### **Sit and Be Fit**

Airdate: July 1 – September 30, 2023  
Airtime: 6:00 a.m.  
Program Length: 30 minutes

Each week, this program addresses the gentle exercise needs of seniors and those with physical limitations. Elements of the show include a section devoted to viewer health concerns, exercises set to age-appropriate music, relaxation techniques, and strengthening and stretching routines utilizing a variety of easy-to-use items around the home.

## **7. MINORITY ISSUES**

### **Osiyo: Voices of the Cherokee People**

Airdate: July 2 – September 17, 2023  
Airtime: 11:30 a.m.  
Program Length: 30 minutes

Osiyo, Voices of the Cherokee People is an Emmy-winning, documentary-style program featuring the people, places, history, and culture of the Cherokee Nation.