

# ARKANSAS PBS FCC QUARTERLY REPORT

## Issues / Programs

Time Period: **January – March 2024**

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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: **January 1, 2024 – March 31, 2024.**

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: January 4 – March 28, 2024

Airtime: 4:30

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: January 6 – March 30, 2024

Airtime: 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: January 4 – March 28, 2024  
Airtime: 5:00 p.m.  
Program Length: 90 minutes

Arkansas PBS launched its original series “Homegrown” celebrating the people, places and stories of Arkansas, Thursday, Sept. 28, at 7 p.m. and livestreaming at [myarpbs.org/live](http://myarpbs.org/live).

“Homegrown” is a tribute to the essence of Arkansas – an exploration of remarkable individuals, their narratives, and the rich heritage they contribute to their communities. Hosted by Dawn Scott, the series will take audiences on a journey through the lives of difference makers, innovators, families, and rural communities, delving into the diverse tapestry of life in The Natural State.

Each episode of “Homegrown” will spotlight a unique theme, interweaving stories previously showcased through various Arkansas PBS productions. By adding fresh insights and perspectives, Scott will breathe new life into these segments, giving them a broader platform and reaching a wider audience.

## **Gospel**

Airdate: February 12-13, 2024  
Airtime: 8:00 p.m.  
Program Length: 120 minutes

From the blues to hip-hop, African Americans have been the driving force of sonic innovation for over a century. While musical styles may come and go, there is one sound that has been a constant source of strength, courage, and wisdom from the pulpit to the choir lofts on any given Sunday: the gospel.

In “GOSPEL,” Gates speaks with dozens of clergymen, singers, and scholars about their connection to the music that has transcended its origins and now spreads “the good word” all around the world. The series features interviews with notable names including Dionne Warwick, U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock, Rev. Otis Moss III, and Professor Michael Eric Dyson, as well as awe-inspiring musical performances of gospel favorites “Can’t Nobody Do Me Like Jesus,” “Total Praise” and others from talents including The Belle Singers, Cory Henry, Celisse and more.

Throughout its four hours, “GOSPEL” gives a look at the history of Black religious music and preaching, showcasing the symbiotic relationship of words and song present in any Black church. The series examines the origin of Black gospel music, which blended the sacred spirituals with the blues tradition and soared to new heights during the Great Migration. This music served as an outlet for the anger and the frustration of living as a Black person in America, which remains true today. The series also

explores the evolution of preaching styles over time and the impact of class, gender, cultural innovations, and consumer technologies shaped the development of gospel since its conception.

Corporate support for “GOSPEL” was provided by Bank of America. Major funding support was provided by the Lilly Endowment Inc., Gilead Sciences, Inc., the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and the Ford Foundation. Funding was also provided by members of The Inkwel Society and by public television viewers like you.

## **Arkansas PBS Sports: 2024 State High School Boys & Girls Basketball Championships**

### **Airdate & Airtime:**

- 3A girls – Bergman vs. Salem – Thursday, March 7, at noon.
- 3A boys – Bergman vs. Central Arkansas Christian – Thursday, March 7, at 1:45 p.m.
- 4A girls – Farmington vs. Morrilton – Thursday, March 7, at 6 p.m.
- 4A boys – Farmington vs. Little Rock Christian – Thursday, March 7, at 7:45 p.m.
- 5A girls – Greenwood vs. Vilonia – Friday, March 8, at noon.
- 5A boys – Benton vs. Pine Bluff – Friday, March 8, at 1:45 p.m.
- 6A girls – Little Rock Central vs. Conway – Friday, March 8, at 6 p.m.
- 6A boys – Little Rock Central vs. Bryant – Friday, March 8, at 7:45 p.m.
- 1A girls – Mammoth Spring vs. Norfork – Saturday, March 9, at 11:30 a.m.
- 1A boys – Nevada vs. Marked Tree – Saturday, March 9, at 1:15 p.m.
- 2A girls – Mt. Vernon-Enola vs. Mansfield – Saturday, March 9, at 6 p.m.
- 2A boys – East Poinsett County vs. Marshall – Saturday, March 9, at 7:45 p.m.

Program Length: 1260 minutes

Arkansas PBS Sports, the new home for high school state championships in Arkansas, recognizes the vital role high school activities play in the education and development of young adults, while connecting families statewide by featuring hometown athletes competing in the biggest games of the season.

Under contract with the Arkansas Activities Association, Arkansas PBS broadcasts high school championship activities for football, boys’ and girls’ basketball, volleyball, and baseball/softball for classifications 1A-7A. In addition to creating viewing opportunities for those who may not be able to attend the games, Arkansas PBS Sports enables talented young athletes to connect with college recruiters and possible scholarships.

The 2024 1A-6A High School Boys & Girls Basketball State Finals were broadcast ‘live’ from Bank OZK Arena in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

## **Arkansas Treasures**

Airdate: February 26, 2024

Airtime: 7:00 p.m.

Program Length: 180 minutes

The all new, original special “Arkansas Treasures” premiered on Arkansas PBS and at [myarps.org/live](http://myarps.org/live) Monday, Nov. 27, 2023, at 7 p.m. “Arkansas Treasures,” filmed during a two-day event in August 2023, showcases the wonderful, weird, and wild collectibles and antiques found throughout the state.

“As ‘Arkansas Treasures’ graces our screens, we invite viewers to delve into the enchanting realm of Arkansas’s hidden gems,” Arkansas PBS Executive Director and CEO Courtney Pledger said. “This series will be a celebration of the extraordinary narratives that reside in the nooks and crannies of Arkansas.

“From quirky antiques to cherished artifacts, each item tells a unique story, weaving together a rich illustration of our cultural heritage. ‘Arkansas Treasures’ is not just a showcase; it’s an exploration of the captivating and unexpected tales that make our state a treasure trove of history and character.”

“Arkansas Treasures” features several professional evaluators meeting with individuals discussing the heirlooms, collectibles and garage sale finds that they’re eager to learn more about, and viewers will get to hear the stories of how they acquired these items and how much each is potentially worth. Amory LeCuyer, owner and lead appraiser for Hampton House Auctions in Yorktown, Virginia, serves as lead appraiser for the production, while Danyelle Musselman, former TV sports reporter and wife of University of Arkansas Razorbacks men’s basketball coach Eric Musselman, serves as host of “Arkansas Treasures.”

More than 500 guests entered the Arkansas PBS studios in Conway during a two-day period in early August for an evaluation of their beloved items, including toys, instruments, paintings, quilts, baseball cards, jewelry, correspondence from former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt and more.

Two Arkansas appraisers who participated in the show, Kate Askew and Roy Dudley, will be live in the Arkansas PBS studios during “Arkansas Treasures”.

### **Once Upon A Time In Arkansas**

Airdate: February 29, 2024  
Airtime: 7:00 p.m.  
Program Length: 60 minutes

Arkansas’s culture blends sharecroppers’ stories, myths of the Wild West and tall tales from the deepest hollers. What power does storytelling hold, and what does it mean for our state? Dive into a unique catalog of Arkansans’ folklore — and see how it shaped the way we view ourselves and the South.

### **Cooking on the Wild Side: A Phyllis & John Reunion**

Airdate: February 24, 2024  
Airtime: 2:30 p.m.

Program Length: 90 minutes

To celebrate the reunion of its hosts during the 2013 special *Cooking on the Wild Side: A Phyllis & John Reunion*, AETN published both a companion cookbook and DVDs of the reunion.

The cookbook was also titled *Cooking on the Wild Side: A Phyllis & John Reunion* and contained "more than 50 viewer-submitted recipes." Recipes in the cookbook included:

Arkansas Wild Cakes, Remoulade Sauce  
Succotash Salad  
Apple Pizza  
Butternut Guacamole  
Dutch Oven Spicy Chicken Casserole  
Dutch Oven Pear Custard Pie  
Bar-B-Que Potatoes  
Pitchfork Fondue With Dipping Sauces  
Fried Biscuits

### **Recipes from Arkansas Outdoors "Dutch Oven Cooking"**

Airdate: March 2, 2024  
Airtime: 1:30 p.m.  
Program Length: 120 minutes

Dutch Oven Cooking recipes from the AETN program "Arkansas Outdoors".

### **Indians, Outlaws, Marshals, and the Hangin' Judge**

Airdate: March 11, 2024  
Airtime: 8:00 p.m.  
Program Length: 120 minutes

"Indians, Outlaws, Marshals and the Hangin' Judge," a film by Larry Foley, will premiere on Arkansas PBS and [myarpbs.org/live](http://myarpbs.org/live) Wednesday, Nov. 29, at 7 p.m. The film tells the story of the wild and violent frontier days in and around Fort Smith, Arkansas, and Indian Territory, when Judge Isaac C. Parker sent 79 convicted felons to die on the gallows.

The award-winning film, released in 2020, blends a first-person narrative by actress Jennica Schwartzman playing Ada Patterson, a reporter for the now defunct St. Louis Republic, with documentary storytelling featuring scholars from eastern Oklahoma and western Arkansas. The real Patterson interviewed Parker, played by Bill Rogers, who was bedridden with kidney disease.

Because he had access to the microfilm of the original 1896 article written by Patterson archived at the Museum of Missouri History in St. Louis, Foley said he felt the best path to recount the events was to combine the storytelling elements.

“I can’t improve on this,” Foley said, referring to the St. Louis Republic article. “This could be bad if we got bad actors, but I knew Jennica would be perfect for Ada Patterson and Bill Rogers, who I’ve known for many years, was what I believe to be an accurate portrayal of Judge Isaac Parker.

“I wanted to be precise with everything, and I knew techniques shouldn’t take away from the story. I knew if we could get the right actors, then this would be a great film.”

Foley went through additional extensive research in an effort to make the film as accurate as possible, “digging into photos at Fort Smith and the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City” as one example.

Encore presentations of “Indians, Outlaws, Marshals and the Hangin’ Judge” will air on Arkansas PBS Sunday, Dec. 3, at 10 a.m. and Monday, Dec. 4, at 8 p.m.

Foley received the Mid-America Regional Emmy Award for Best Director for “Indians, Outlaws, Marshals and the Hangin’ Judge.”

## 2. EDUCATION

### **Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood**

Airdate: January 2 – March 29, 2024  
Airtime: 8:00 a.m. & 9:30 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: January 2 – March 29, 2024  
Airtime: 9:00 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: January 2 – March 28, 2024  
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.

## **Mystery League**

Airdate: January 7 – March 31, 2024  
Airtime: 8:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m.  
Program Length: 30 minutes

We're excited to share that our original show "Mystery League" – a new 20-episode, live-action series to teach kids in kindergarten through second grades about friendship and community –will premiere this fall on the statewide public media network.

"Mystery League" showcases the remarkable production skills of our Arkansas PBS team and draws on our many relationships with the talented, larger Arkansas creative community."

"Mystery League" follows three fifth grade "detectives" – Millie, Mike, and Marta – as they solve the never-ending mysteries of the fictional, small, Arkansas town of Mulberry Springs. Each episode of "Mystery League" features relevant storylines that encourage Arkansas kids to problem solve and build relationships. Free resources will be offered to families and classrooms to support learning targets that align with Arkansas educational standards.

Arkansans will see many familiar faces and familiar places in the series, including:

- Lawson Elementary School in Little Rock.
- The Old State House Museum.
- Parkview High School in Little Rock.
- The Saline County Courthouse.
- The Burger Shack in Benton.
- Ouachita River in the cities of Malvern and Rockport.
- Rempel Dam at Jones Mills, powered by Entergy.
- The Bauxite Animal Shelter.
- MacArthur Park in Little Rock.
- A family farm in Scott.
- Value Foods in Little Rock.
- Haskell Hardware in Haskell.
- Benton School District.

The series will be available digitally to families and classrooms across the state beginning in fall 2023. The statewide broadcast premiere of “Mystery League” on Arkansas PBS is slated for October 2023, with episodes also livestreaming at [myarpbs.org/watch](http://myarpbs.org/watch). The series will also be available on demand in the PBS App and at [youtube.com/arkansaspbs](http://youtube.com/arkansaspbs), as well as via YouTube TV. In conjunction with the broadcast and digital distribution of the series, Arkansas PBS will offer activities for the classroom and at home.

### 3. ECONOMICS

#### **America’s Heartland**

Airdate: January 7 – March 24, 2024  
 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: January 3 – March 27, 2024  
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: January 3 – March 27, 2024  
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.

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

## **Arkansas Week**

Airdate: January 5 – March 29, 2024  
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: January 1 – March 29, 2024  
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: January 1 – March 29, 2024  
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: January 5 – March 29, 2024

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: January 7 – March 31, 2024  
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.

### **The Iowa Caucus – A PBS News Special Report**

Airdate: January 15, 2024  
Airtime: 10:00 p.m.  
Program Length: 30 minutes

PBS NewsHour special coverage of the Iowa Presidential Caucuses for both the Democratic and Republican parties.

### **The New Hampshire Primary – A PBS News Special Report**

Airdate: January 23, 2024  
Airtime: 10:00 p.m.  
Program Length: 30 minutes

PBS NewsHour special coverage of the New Hampshire Presidential Primaries for both the Democratic and Republican parties.

### **PBS NewsHour Special Report – State of the Union**

Airdate: March 7, 2024  
Airtime: 10:00 p.m.  
Program Length: 120 minutes

President Biden’s State of the Union address before Congress, the nation, and the world.

## **6. HEALTH / HEALTHCARE**

### **Classical Stretch**

Airdate: January 1 – March 30, 2024  
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: January 27 – March 30, 2024  
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: January 7 – March 24, 2024  
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.