

# ARKANSAS PBS FCC QUARTERLY REPORT

## Issues / Programs

Time Period: **October – December 2023**

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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: **October 1, 2023 – December 31, 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: October 5 – December 28, 2023  
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: October 5 – December 28, 2023  
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: November 28, 2023  
Airtime: 9:00 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.

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

Airdate: November 29, 2023  
Airtime: 7:00 p.m.  
Program Length: 60 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.”

## **Arkansas Treasures**

Airdate: November 27, 2023  
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, 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 the premiere of “Arkansas Treasures” on Nov. 27.

## **Arkansas PBS Sports: State High School Volleyball Championships**

Airdate: October 28, 2023  
Airtime: 6A – Fayetteville vs. Conway, Saturday, Oct. 28, at 11 a.m.  
2A – Mansfield vs. Conway Christian, Saturday, Oct. 28, at 1 p.m.  
3A – Hackett vs. Baptist Prep, Saturday, Oct. 28, at 3 p.m.  
4A – Shiloh Christian vs. Brookland, Saturday, Oct. 28, at 5 p.m.  
5A – Greenwood vs. Benton, Saturday, Oct. 28, at 7 p.m.

Program Length: 300 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 2A-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 2022 2A-6A high school girls volleyball state championships are broadcast and streamed 'live' from the Bank OZK Arena in Hot Springs., Arkansas.

## **Arkansas PBS Sports: State High School Football Championships**

Airdate & Airtime:  
8-man – Rector vs. Spring Hill, Thursday, Nov. 30, at 7 p.m.  
2A – East Poinsett County vs. Bigelow, Friday, Dec. 1, at noon  
6A – Greenwood vs. Little Rock Christian, Friday, Dec. 1, at 6:30 p.m.  
7A – Fayetteville vs. Bentonville, Saturday, Dec. 2, at noon  
5A – Little Rock Parkview vs. Shiloh Christian, Saturday, Dec. 2, at 6:30 p.m.  
3A – Booneville vs. Prescott, Saturday, Dec. 9, at noon.  
4A – Rivercrest vs. Harding Academy, Saturday, Dec. 9, at 6:30 p.m.

Program Length: 1260 minutes

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The 2022 2A-7A high school football state finals were broadcast 'live' from War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock, Arkansas.

### **Celebrating Arkansas: Holiday Traditions**

Airdate: December 4, 2023  
Airtime: 7:00 p.m.  
Program Length: 30 minutes

"Celebrating Arkansas: Holiday Traditions," an Arkansas PBS original series showcasing The Natural State's culture and heritage.

The series will take audiences on a journey across the seasons and across the state as Arkansans share the memories, family rituals, food and time-honored traditions that bring their loved ones together.

Join professional DJ and "Celebrating Arkansas: Holiday Traditions" host, Mario Luna, as he scours the state for the most interesting, time-tested Arkansas celebrations. In the Fall episode of this new series, Luna will get the inside information on the Hindu festival of Diwali, as well as the spooky details on Halloween and Día de Los Muertos in different communities across the state. Finally, Luna will compete a Turkey Crawl as he celebrates Thanksgiving a handful of different ways, while sharing the lesson – no matter the celebration, it's better together.

## **2. EDUCATION**

### **Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood**

Airdate: October 2 – December 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: October 2 – December 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: October 1 – December 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.

### **Mystery League**

Airdate: November 19, 2023  
Airtime: 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.
- Remmel 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: October 1 – December 31, 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: October 18 – December 27, 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: October 11 – December 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.

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

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

Airdate: October 6 – December 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: October 2 – December 29, 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: October 2 – December 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: October 6 – December 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: October 1 – December 31, 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.

## **War in the Holy Land: A PBS News Special Report**

Airdate: October 13, 2023

Airtime: 8:00 p.m.

Program Length: 60 minutes

Join Geoff Bennett and Amna Nawaz for a special covering the devastating week of violence in Israel and Gaza, featuring reports from special correspondent Leila Molana-Allen, as well as analysis on the history of the conflict, a look at the Palestinian militant group Hamas and exploration of the wider conflict in the region.

## 6. HEALTH / HEALTHCARE

### **Classical Stretch**

Airdate: October 6 – December 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: October 7 – December 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: October 1 – December 31, 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.