

# 'Prairie Home Companion' star to leave show, write full time

Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Garrison Keillor, host of public radio's "A Prairie Home Companion," announced Saturday at the start of the weekly program that he will make his last broadcast June 13.

Keillor, 44, author of the best-selling "Lake Wobegon Days," said he wanted to return to writing full-time and live in his wife's native Denmark for a while.

In late 1985, Keillor married Ulla Skaerved, whom he had met years earlier when she was a foreign exchange student at his high school.

His announcement leaves the future of "A Prairie Home Companion" uncertain, said Christelle Langer, a spokeswoman for Minnesota Public Radio, which produces the show.

Keillor told his audience: "The decision to close is mine, a simple painful decision that is cheerfully made. It is simply time to go. I want to resume the life of a shy person ..."

## ACROSS

### THE NATION

The show will continue as scheduled through the summer with rebroadcasts. A contract to televise the program of music and storytelling on the Disney Channel beginning March 7 through the end of the season also is unaffected, she said.

Minnesota Public Radio President William Kling said a new variety radio show is being planned to begin July 1. He said it would not duplicate Keillor's work, but like "A Prairie Home Companion" it would be broadcast live from the 77-year-old World Theater in St. Paul.

"A Prairie Home Companion" got its start in 1974, and Keillor has made an estimated 500 broadcasts since then, Langer said. In 1980, the program made its national broadcast debut and now reaches 3 million to 4 million listeners each Saturday.