

# Keillor takes 'Prairie' to N.M.

■ *Humorist brings performers to town in benefit for Sandia Prep*

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There is a deep river of whimsy that still runs through storyteller Garrison Keillor.

But if a topic in his monologue is his age, Keillor's grin may turn to a frown.

"I just turned 60 and I suppose that's not a happy subject," Keillor said from his St. Paul, Minn., home.

"The brain is the hard part for me (in accepting aging). I'm having problems. The other day I was telling a story to my wife and some friends and I realized I was coming to a point in the story where I was going to have to think of a word I couldn't think of," he said.

"It was a word for a sort of box with one big wheel at one end, a handle at the other end and you carry things around. I couldn't think of the word 'wheelbarrow.'"

So Keillor circled around to avoid the ending. Finally, he had to change the story.

"Names are an old problem. Words are a new problem," he confessed.

One adjustment for forgetfulness, he suggested, is to hang out with longtime friends "who know what your going to say anyway. You don't hardly have to break



**HUMORIST IN TOWN:** Author and radio personality Garrison Keillor will present a show Tuesday at the Sandia Casino Amphitheater.

new ground."

Of course, Keillor remains an active public performer, hosting his popular radio show "Prairie Home Companion" and telling stories at his stage appearances.

He will be at the Sandia Casino Amphitheater on Tuesday, with the Hopeful

Gospel Quartet and pianist Rich Dworsky, both regulars on Keillor's weekly radio show.

"'Prairie Home Companion' is getting ginned up for a new season. We try to figure out where to take the show, where we can go in America, where people still want us," Keillor said.

## If you go

**WHAT:** Humorist Garrison Keillor

**WHEN:** 8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 3

**WHERE:** Sandia Casino Amphitheater, on Tramway NE just east of I-25

**HOW MUCH:** Tickets are \$35, \$40, \$45 and \$100 and are available at the Sandia Casino box office and Ticketmaster outlets. Call 883-7800

He likens it to a bank robber returning for another try.

As you get older and you no longer resemble your photograph on the post office wall, he said, "you can go back and it's another form of bank robbery, a serial robbery. You just don't want to do it in the same neighborhood."

The performance at Sandia Casino is a benefit for the Campaign for Sandia Prep, a \$6 million funding initiative.

Keillor said he is doing it as a favor for his old friend Pamela Michaelis, whose daughter attended Sandia Prep, an independent school in Albuquerque. Keillor said he knew Michaelis when she lived in St. Paul, Minn.

"(She and her husband, Don) like it an awful lot down there (in New Mexico), and I forgive them for that," he said.