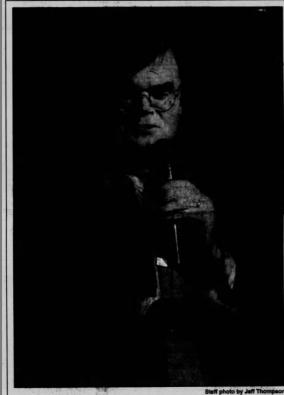
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Humorist Garrison Keillor Bills a story during his performance Wednesday evening at the Mabel Tainter Theater in Meriomonie. The performance was a benefit for the re-election bid of state Sen. Alice Clausing.

Cheese leaguer

Keillor goes public as (gasp) Wisconsinite, praises Clausing for fighting Cities airport

By Pamela Powers Menomonie News Bureau

MENOMONIE — Author and humorist Garrison Keillor looked up from his St. Croix County woods one day and realized a proposed new St. Paul-Minneapolis air-port near Hastings, Minn., could become his neighbor.

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his neighbor.

"(The) New Hastings International
Airport was proposed by visionaries over
in Minnesota," Keillor quipped. "Perhaps
they were impressed by the Denver airport
and decided we needed one like it.

"Had the airport been built, my house
over in the woods on the St. Croix River
would have been about two miles off the
north-south runway," Keillor said. "I
walked around those woods and realized
that someday I may have to move back to
New York for some peace and quiet."

Keillor credited Sen. Alice Clausing, DMenomonie, with helping to dissuade
Minnesota officials from building the airport near Hastings.

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Minnesota officials from building the airport near Hastings.

Keillor entertained at the Mabel Tainter
Memorial Theater Wednesday as part of a
political fund-raiser for Clausing
Clausing faces Republican Jay Griggs of
Hudson in the Nov. 5 general election for
the 10th Senate District seat.

"I am very thankful for the peace and
quiet of the "very eastern part of
Minnesota," said Keillor, host of "A
Prairie Home Companion" heard on public radio stations across the nation.

Keillor said Wednesday was his "coming out" as a citizen of Wisconsin as he

Ite radio stations across the nation.

Keillor said Wednesday was his "coming out" as a citizen of Wisconsin as he deals with the shock of living in a state where people wear chunks of cheese on their heads.

Lanna Laird of Menomonie said she came to hear Keillor because she always has been a fan of "A Prairie Home Companion."

"If you get a child's attention and awaken something in that child, all the other battles are easy."

-Humorist Garrison Keillor, on education

"So many things Keillor talks about are northern Wisconsin and familiar stories," Laird said. "You understand them and identify with them."

Mary Rasmussen of Boyceville agreed. "It's the celebration of real community values we all know in our hearts," she

Keillor sang a song or two during the show, tapping his red-socked toes. He pointed out the importance of good schools.

schools.

"If you get a child's attention and awaken something in that child, all the other battles are easy," Keillor said of education.

To lose the battle means the fight continues the rest of the child's life, he said.

tinues the rest of the child's life, he said.
Keillor brought up the magic of the season as he told tales from Lake Wobegon, his mythical childhood home — tales of moving privies as Halloween pranks.
He glorified the coming of winter's cold.

"Winter is the time of year when our characters are made," the radio personality said. "We realize life is serious, and nature has it in for us. Nature will make several attempts to kill us. "We're northern people," he added. "We're happier when we have something to be gloomy about."