

■ STRAIGHT FROM LAKE WOBEGON

Garrison Keillor's storytelling comes to Valley



Photo provided

Radio and storytelling legend Garrison Keillor will be at Williamsport's Community Arts Center on Sunday night. He hosts "A Prairie Home Companion" every weekend and "The Writer's Almanac" weekdays on National Public Radio, and has written several books.

By Jeffrey Allen Federowicz
For The Daily Item

WILLIAMSPORT — "America's foremost storyteller will wrap Williamsport up in a warm rhetorical blanket on a cold February evening," said Rob Steele, executive director of the Community Arts Center.

Mr. Steele is referring to Garrison Keillor, who will appear at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at the Community Arts Center.

Mr. Keillor has been described as the Mark Twain of our time and one of the greatest storytellers of all time.

Since 1974, he has been hosting "A Prairie Home Companion" which is heard weekly by more than four million people on nearly 600 public radio stations.

The live show features an eclectic assortment of witty humor, down-home songs and homespun chit-chat that is reminiscent of the early days of radio programming.

His performances often have the feel of an amusing conversation with a long lost friend.

In addition to "A Prairie Home Companion," Mr. Keillor also hosts "The Writer's Almanac," which is heard weekdays on public radio.

Last year he ventured out into a new area of entertainment and collaborated on a film version of "A Prairie Home Companion," starring Woody Harrelson, John C. Reilly and Oscar winners Kevin Kline, Tommy Lee Jones and Meryl Streep.

Although the film had a star-studded cast, it failed to generate much interest at the box office.

In addition to his list of credit, Mr. Keillor has penned eight books and three children's books as well as poetry.

Opening for Mr. Keillor at the Community Arts Center will be another artist with a down-home, down to earth quality, E.G. Kight, a woman full of class and song.

Ms. Kight's style of music is a mixture of blues, jazz, gospel and a little bit of something that is all her own unique style.

"It is such an honor to be the opening act for Garrison Keillor," she said. "He is a true American legend and one of the best storytellers. I am just thrilled."

Like Mr. Keillor, Ms. Kight is also a gifted storyteller, although she tells her tales through song.

"People should expect to hear some great blues and jazz music during my performance. I love playing music and there is nothing better than to be able to share it with other people and see them enjoy the music."

Tickets for Garrison Keillor at the Community Arts Center, Sunday at 7:30 p.m., are priced at \$25, \$40 and \$55.

For more information of to order tickets, phone (800) 423-9382 or by visiting www.pct.edu/commarts.