



18 East 22nd St.
Kearney, NE 68848-1180
(308) 233-3214
www.cityofkearney.org

CITY OF KEARNEY **PRESS RELEASE** ***For Immediate Release***

Issued Date: January 16, 2015

Point of Contact: Christine Walsh, Assistant Library Director, 308-233-3283

Storytelling Festival Kickoff at the Kearney Public Library

Warm your heart and tickle your funny bone with national award-winning storytellers Kim Weitkamp and Michael Reno Harrell during the week-long Kearney Storytelling Festival.

Michael Reno Harrell will kick-off the festival Tuesday, January 20 at Kearney Public Library at 7:00 p.m. with Stories for Families. He is a veteran storyteller and entertainer, an award winning songwriter, and he's from the Southern Appalachian Mountains. His style has been described as being "like a breakfast of butter and molasses on a warm biscuit... Southern, easy and sweet". Michael's storytelling, in print, song, and spoken word, has earned him praise from the music community and the literary and storytelling worlds.

On Friday, January 23, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. Kim Weitkamp will share Stories for Children at Kearney Public Library. Kim is an author, storyteller, singer, and songwriter. For 15 years before becoming a full-time professional storyteller, Kim used the art of applied storytelling as a youth advocate, working with at risk youth. Now, she says, "I make a living with words." Her genuine care for the audience combined with her ability to relate results in a magical, hear a pin drop performance peppered with moments of raucous laughter.

The Storytelling Festival final showcase will be January 24 at Kearney Public Library. The showcase will feature Kim Weitkamp and Michael Reno Harrell as well as local tellers: Sherry Crow, Val Scott, Steven Barth, and Janice Polk. There will be storytelling for all ages; two sessions of stories for families at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.

See you at the Kearney Public Library, 2020 1st Avenue, Kearney, NE for stories and fun!

Then Saturday evening Storytelling for Adults at the Museum of Nebraska Art for grownups to enjoy a night of stories just for them starting at 7:00 p.m. featuring the national tellers, Kim Weitkamp and Michael Reno Harrell. MONA is located at 2401 Central Avenue, Kearney, NE

The programs are funded in part by Humanities Nebraska and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment.

Check out our web site at www.cityofkearney.org.

We are sending this News Release as a service to the news media and citizens of Kearney.

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