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

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Storytelling Festival Kickoff at the Kearney Public Library

Celebrate the 30th year of the Kearney Area Storytelling Festival with national award-winning storytellers Kim Weitkamp, Andy Offutt Irwin, and Bil Lepp who will return to Kearney for the week-long festival.

Andy Offutt Irwin will kick-off the festival Tuesday, January 17 at Kearney Public Library at 7:00 p.m. with Stories for Families. He is equal parts mischievous schoolboy and the Marx Brothers, peppered with a touch of the Southern balladeer.

New this year, are two writing workshops with these talented storytellers and writers.

- Tuesday, January 17 at 12:00 p.m. (noon) Andy Offutt Irwin and Bil Lepp will lead a writing workshop for aspiring writers. Lunch will be provided and registration is required. Workshop fee is \$10. Call 308-233-3282 or e-mail cwalsh@kearneygov.org to register.
- Friday, January 20 at 2:30 p.m. Humorist, keynote speaker, presenter, consultant, singer, songwriter and spoken word artist Kim Weitkamp will lead a writing workshop for aspiring writers. Workshop fee is \$10. Call 308-233-3282 or e-mail cwalsh@kearneygov.org to register.

Friday, January 20 at 11:00 a.m. Kim Weitkamp will share Stories for Pre-schoolers and their families. As the redheaded child of exhausted parents, Kim grew up enjoying the role of the middle child. Allowed to roam free in the heart of Amish Country, her imagination was ripened by a life lived outdoors. Now she enjoys the role of being one of the most sought after storytellers and speakers in the country.

The Storytelling Festival final showcase will be January 21 at Kearney Public Library. The showcase will feature National Storytellers Kim Weitkamp, Andy Offutt Irwin, and Bil Lepp as well as several local tellers. There will be storytelling for all ages with sessions at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.

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

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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