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

Issued Date: April 16, 2015

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Humanities Nebraska Speaker to Appear at the Peterson Senior Activity Center

Western history author and speaker Jeff Barnes will present Sand Hills and Sandlots: The Amazing Story of Rushville's Modisett Ball Park, one of the most unusual and storied baseball fields in Nebraska on Thursday, April 23 at 1:00 p.m. at the Peterson Senior Activity Center. This presentation is made possible by the Nebraska Humanities Council, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and the Peterson Senior Activity Center as part of the NHC Speakers Bureau.

"Sand Hills and Sandlots: The Amazing Story of Rushville's Modisett Ball Park" is a recounting of the ball park built by ranchers that went on to host a nationally famous baseball school, sponsored by the Milwaukee Braves and New York Yankees, which saw a southpaw from Gering, Nebraska, who struck out Mickey Mantle. In 2014 the ball park underwent a complete restoration for the park's 75th anniversary, in large part funded by a Nebraska publisher who grew up in Rushville and played at the ball park as a boy.

"It's truly incredible for a town of less than 900 people to have such a storied park", said Barnes, "and even more incredible for the park to be rebuilt for a second 75 years. But it's a wonderful tale of how the right people in the right community taking the right actions can come together to create a shrine to the great American pastime."

The 45-minute presentation includes historic images and stories of Rushville's relationship with baseball. The talk is taken from Barnes's new book, "Extra Innings: The Story of Modisett Ball Park".

A former newspaper reporter and editor, Barnes lives and writes in Omaha. He is a board trustee with the Nebraska State Historical Society, former chairman of the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission, and one of the top-requested speakers with Humanities Nebraska. He is the author of Forts of the Northern Plains, The Great Plains Guide to Custer, and The Great Plains Guide to Buffalo Bill.

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