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

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Author Carson Vaughn presents Zoo Nebraska at Kearney Public Library

Kearney Public Library welcomes Nebraska author Carson Vaughn, Thursday, April 25 at 7 pm. He will present his new book *Zoo Nebraska: The Dismantling of an American Dream*. Carson is a freelance journalist from central Nebraska with a focus on the Great Plains.

“*Zoo Nebraska* is a resonant true story of small-town politics and community perseverance and of decent people and questionable choices, *Zoo Nebraska* is a timely requiem for a rural America in the throes of extinction.

Royal, Nebraska, population eighty-one—where the church, high school, and post office each stand abandoned, monuments to a Great Plains town that never flourished. But for nearly twenty years, they had a zoo, seven acres that rose from local peculiarity to key tourist attraction to devastating tragedy. And it all began with one man’s outsize vision. “ Brilliance Audio

His work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker* (online), *The Atlantic*, *The Guardian*, *The Paris Review Daily*, *Outside*, *Pacific Standard*, *VICE*, *In These Times*, and more. Most recently, he was awarded the 2018 John M. Collier Award for Forest History Journalism from the Forest History Society for his [Weather Channel feature](#), “Uprooting FDR’s ‘Great Wall of Trees.’” He was also a recipient of a 2018 Individual Artist Fellowship from the Nebraska Arts Council.

Books will be available following the presentation. This program is free and open to the public.

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