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.

*Check out our web site at [www.cityofkearney.org](http://www.cityofkearney.org).*

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