



**News Release  
For Immediate Release**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact:** Belleville Public Library, 785/527-5305

**Book and Film Series Concludes with Dust Bowl Documentary**

**Belleville** – The Belleville Public Library will offer in May the final installment in a four-part book and film discussion series about the 1930s entitled *Bright Dreams, Hard Times*. A screening and discussion of *Stories from the Dust Bowl* will take place on Sunday, May 2, at 1:30 PM at the library, 1327 19th St. Members of the community are invited to attend the free program. For more information, contact the library at 527-5305.

*Stories from the Dust Bowl*, produced by Smoky Hills Public Television, examines the Dust Bowl region of Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado. Eyewitnesses recall the “Dirty Thirties” and experts look to the future to see if the Dust Bowl could come again. Phillip D. Thomas, professor of History at Wichita State University, will lead a discussion after the film.

The series is sponsored by the Kansas Humanities Council, a nonprofit cultural organization, in conjunction with the *Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the Thirties* Chautauqua coming to Belleville June 9-13. The Chautauqua will feature tent programs by scholars portraying famous historical figures from the 1930s: President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Louisiana Senator Huey Long, Pentecostal leader Aimee Semple McPherson, writer Zora Neale Hurston, and humorist Will Rogers. The Council’s Resource Center is furnishing the books, films, and discussion leaders for the Belleville series.

The books and films in the series reflect the themes of the *Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the Thirties* Chautauqua. The Chautauqua explores 1930s themes that are familiar today: environmental devastation, economic concerns, the relationship between Americans and their government, the flowering of intellectual and artistic activity, and the role of new media in American lives.

For more information about the *Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the Thirties* Chautauqua, visit [www.kansashumanities.org](http://www.kansashumanities.org).

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