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**National Storytellers Will Have You in Stitches: Tejas Storytelling Association
Tumbleweed Festival tumbles into Abilene for third year**

ABILENE, Texas – Storytelling is not just for children! Everyone loves a good story. Abilene will be buzzing with stories and tall tales at the third annual Tejas Storytelling Association Tumbleweed Festival, October 21-22. This year's event features nationally recognized storytellers, Barbara McBride-Smith and Dennis Gaines.

Barbara McBride-Smith brings the voice of the southwest to stories as ancient as Greek mythology and the Bible and as modern as her own personal experiences in the 21st century. She has been touring as a professional storyteller since 1987 and has appeared numerous times at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee. Humorist, folklorist, scholar, teacher, author, and downright good ol' gal, Barbara is sure to entertain.

Dennis Gaines is a true cowboy who helps preserve the traditions and culture of the west through his humorous tales and poetry. He has represented Texas at the Western Folklife Center's National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada. A certified prize-winning "liar," he tours the country swapping jokes.

Storytelling workshops will take place both days. There will also be evening storytelling events for adults and children ages 10 and older. On Saturday, there are two free programs especially for children. The festival events will take place at the Elks Art Center and the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature. For a full schedule, to learn more about storytelling or the association, visit www.tejasstorytelling.com. To schedule an interview with a storyteller, call Abbie Ryan Randolph at 325-794-4463.

The group predicts that 100 individuals will be in attendance this year and the Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau estimates that this event will generate \$16,800.

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