

Vernal Express

'Grim's Soldiers: The Reviled' written by Unicorn

BY BRITTANY WILKERSON
Uintah Basin Media

Death is commonly portrayed as the Grim Reaper. In "Grim's Soldiers: The Reviled" he is "a reaper of the grim variety," and he is conducting an experiment on the human race.

When January Ingrim is killed on a cold November day, it isn't the end for her when the Grim Reaper gives her a second chance at life, which she eagerly takes. But her second life comes with new abilities. Things get even more interesting when a bounty hunter finds her. Instead of turning January in, he teams up with her and together they start finding others that are like her. Soon they are all forced to work together when murderous monsters are sent after them.

I wasn't sure what to expect when I picked up "The Reviled," but once I did I could not put it down. Wall is a fantastic author. Her story is unique and kept me turning pages to find out what was going to happen.

Wall got the idea for her story "in a dream. I know, a bit of a cliché, right? By the time I woke up I was inspired. I dropped everything, I pushed

all my other projects to the side, and I came up with the story that became 'The Reviled.'"

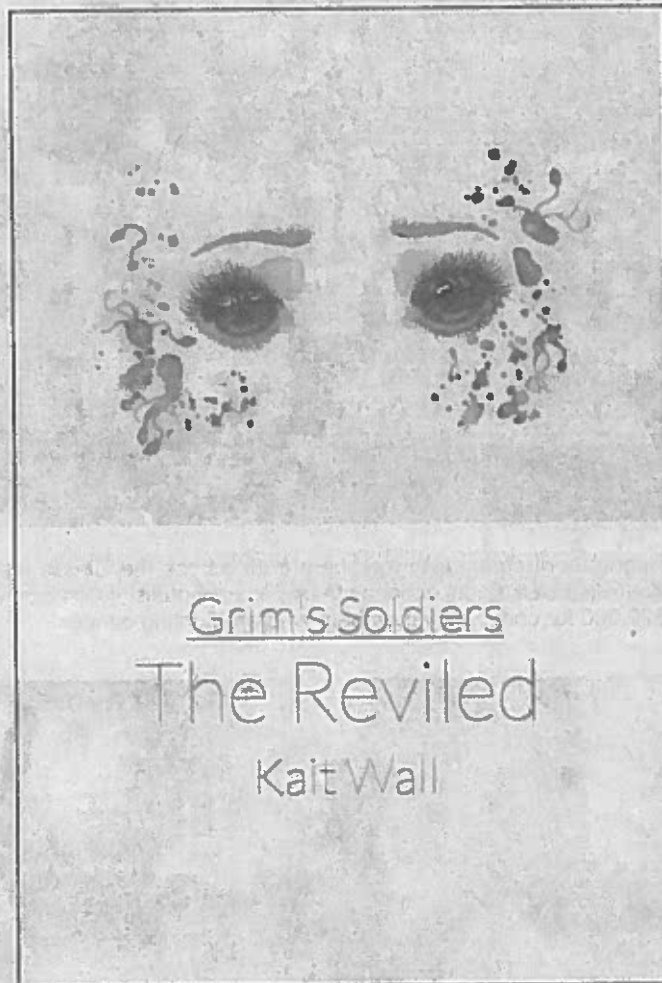
"I hope that in getting to know my characters, my readers can feel better about who they are," Wall said. "I hope

that teenagers and adults alike can realize that it's okay to be a misfit, it's okay to be a nerd, it's okay to be an introvert, and it's okay to be gay. Girls can save the day sometimes, boys can stay home, and vice versa. If at least one reader feels a little better about who they are because of these characters, I'll feel I've done something good."

"The Reviled" was released January of this year and is Wall's first book. She is currently working on the second book of the "Grim's Soldiers" trilogy, as well as "a short story involving a very minor character at the end of 'The Reviled.'" She is also working on another book of "post-apocalyptic fairy tales."

Wall has advice for those writing their first book. "Don't kill yourself during the process. It's okay to write really awful dialogue, that'll get fixed later. It's okay to not know what you're doing, you'll figure it out later. Don't get down on yourself because you feel like you're writing garbage. The best writers in the world had to start somewhere. It was all garbage at one point. It's okay to be bad, because that's the

only way you'll get better." "The Reviled" contains explicit content in language and sex, but is appropriate for all ages. Wall currently lives in Pleasant valley. She grew up in Roosevelt, raised her children, and graduated from high school. Along with writing, Wall also does web design and graphic design. She



"On my ass" great story about an inspiratio

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On April 20, 2001, Lou Dean and her friend, Jeanne Smith, started their one-month trek across the state of Colorado to promote nonviolence in schools—**Lou Dean** on her donkey (Jesse James) and Smith on her horse (Tut). Over

the next 31 days they encountered bad weather and hard times but they also received many blessings and met many wonderful strangers who helped along the way.

I wasn't expecting much from this book, just a story about a woman who rides her donkey across Colorado. What I got out of it was a surpris-

ingly spiritual experience:

Lou Dean is an excellent author, who certainly knows how to tell a story. "On My Ass" had the right mix of humor and honesty. The back-story she included provided wonderful insight and helped make just a story about a woman and her ass into a moving, memorable book.

About writing the book Lou Dean said, "I think that life gives you all these challenges and I think our most important purpose is to not only have courage but have love to try to share what you've been through to help someone else, essentially, and that's what I hope I've done."

Speaking of the hardships of the journey Lou Dean said, "it was at times like everything was against us. I would have turned back if it hadn't been for my buddy (Smith). She was tough and one of those people who don't give up. And my jackass. I mean he, you know, after that first week they (Jesse and Tut) just seemed like they knew that we were on a mission. I think we all gave each other courage."

"On My Ass" was released in June and is one of many books that Lou Dean has written. Two of those being "Reaching for the Reins" and the more recent "The Boys from the Bushes."

She has two upcoming novels. One is "kind of a contemporary romance, western romance. And the other is actually what they consider a middle grade novel, 'Bully of 1948.' I have an article coming out in the July/August issue of a magazine called Southern racehorse, It's an excerpt from 'Boys from the Bushes.'"

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BRITTANY WILKERSON, UTAH BASIN STANDARD

Lou Dean at book her signing at Ashley Valley Trading Post

For more information about Lou Dean and her books, or to contact her about speaking to women's groups, visit <http://www.loudean.com/>.



*Please Join the Utah Arts Council and the
Uintah County Library*

Author

WILL BAGLEY

~presents~

**"WHY THE RAILROAD
NEVER CAME TO VERNAL"**

A free public presentation

*7:00 p.m. Tuesday October, 7, 2008
Uintah County Building Courtroom*

147 E. Main, Vernal, UT 84078



WILL BAGLEY is the one of the American West's most prolific historians. Bagley recently released *Always a Cowboy: Judge Wilson McCarthy and the Rescue of the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad*. Bagley is the Wallace Stegner Centennial Fellow at the University of Utah for 2008. He is editor of the *KINGDOM IN THE WEST* documentary

The Utah Arts Council and the Uintah County Library

PRESENTS

“WHY THE RAILROAD NEVER CAME TO VERNAL”

By Author

WILL BAGLEY

A free public presentation held at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 7, 2008

At the Uintah County Building Courtroom, 147 East Main, Vernal, UT 84078

Sam Passey introduction: We are pleased to present tonight Will Bagley, who is the author of *Always A Cowboy: Judge Wilson McCarthy and the Rescue of the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad*. Also Will's been around doing this history thing for a while. We've got *West From Fort Bridger* and this was your first major work, wasn't it?

Will Bagley: Nope, it was the third.

Sam: Third major work, third major work.

Will: With Hal Shitler; it's a Dale Warriors writing and we updated it.

Sam: This is a most important contribution of Will Bagley to scholarship. I need to thank, before I go any further, the Utah Arts Council and Guy Labida, who coordinates their Speakers Bureau Program, and Will is part of that Speakers Bureau, for helping send Will out to us. Guy unfortunately couldn't make it here tonight but he wanted me to express his appreciation to Will and to each of you for coming out and that history is one of these things that's both science and art. There is no greater master of teasing out the two, figuring out what's history and what's folklore and what's just plain untrue, than Will Bagley. Without further adieu, Will, whose credits just go on and on and I couldn't stand up here and list them all, Will's won many awards. He is currently the Wall Steamer Centennial Fellow up at the University of Utah. I should note one more

Will: H. H. Bancroft made a lot more money than Will Bagley ever will though, but he earned every penny and his history of Utah is, of course, famous. His thirty-nine volume history of the Pacific Slope is a major accomplishment. It's always an honor to be compared with such a man who made such a contribution, not just in his own time, but to us. If H. H. Bancroft hadn't begun collecting history, going out and interviewing pioneers in the 1870s and '80s, buying the Mexican archives, these records are now in the Bancroft library and I've relied on the Bancroft again and again to put together the stories of people's lives.

Tonight I wanted to get a good title for you Vernalites and it struck me as I was working on my biography of Wilson McCarthy, who rescued the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad and the Denver & Salt Lake Railroad in the 1930s, I could begin to picture how many people dreamed of putting a railroad through the Uinta Basin. It is now, I believe, if you take the California Zephyr between Salt Lake and Denver, about 750 miles, maybe 720, but the projected railroad between Salt Lake and Denver through the Uinta Basin was 579 miles. They called it, ironically, the "airline route" and it would have transformed transportation in the West but it would have had a big impact on our national transportation system.

And I'll get into that a little bit more, but the title of tonight's presentation of course, is "Why the Railroad Never Came to Vernal," even though the Uintah Railway built a depot and the Denver & Salt Lake was conceived to put a railroad through Jensen, if not Vernal. But it never happened. And the simple answer to that question, why didn't the railroad ever come? I've got a one-word answer and a two-word answer.

The one word answer is MONEY. Railroads were expensive to build. They could be highly profitable especially when they were run to the great advantage of the owners who typically lived in massive apartments in New York City or in mansions in New York City. Many of them owned railroads that they had never seen because they had never crossed the Hudson River to see much outside of New York City. But they were also the driving engine of development of the American West. Once you have the great epic of the Oregon-California trails, which I've been working on now for almost ten years, that is such an amazing story.

But it was again tied to another dream, which was to build a transcontinental railroad.

Thirty years later the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific have spanned the continent with steel. That transformation happened so quickly that the people themselves, who had done it, could never really understand how it had happened so quickly. Thomas Jefferson allegedly told Thomas Hart Benton that he thought it would take 70 generations to fill up the Louisiana Purchase. And that didn't even include the American Southwest and where we are today in California and the rest. It happened in about three generations. The Indians who had ruled this country for millennia were even more astonished and decimated than the people who had come through in 1840. This transformation is so epic that to me it's not just a great American story but a great human story.

Now once you had this single line of steel between the Pacific Ocean and the Missouri River, it immediately began spawning other railroads. One of the jokes about the transcontinental railroad was that it managed to miss the two biggest cities on the whole route, Denver and Salt Lake. Immediately there were spurs built. Brigham Young built the Utah Central to service Salt Lake and the Kansas Pacific, I believe, no, a separate railroad was built by 1870 to Denver.

Then a great entrepreneur and veteran of the Civil War, a cavalry general, he's one of these bright young men, a Pennsylvanian, raised a Quaker, but who had answered his country's call, and been a railroad engineer, a very successful railroad engineer in the sense of someone who built railroads, surveyed railroads and investigated the best coal to use, and the rest, William Jackson Palmer. Palmer had a vision of what railroads could do for the west and he centered that vision on Colorado. His dream was to build a railroad allied with his fellow Civil War veterans and create a corporation that would work for the community good, for the good of the state and the good of the country. He also founded Colorado Springs and being a tee-totaler and a devout Christian, he made Colorado Springs, in many ways, the community that it is today. And Jackson's dream was to connect to Mexico and the great treasures that people imagined laid in the Santa Fe trade. So the name of the railroad was the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad and the ultimate dream was to put a railroad through all the way to Mexico City.

Palmer ran into the problems of finance and capital in the nineteenth century. The capital that developed America came from Europe. And to promote any American enterprise you had to go to England. Palmer also went to the mainland. to France and

mineral wealth that lay in Leadville and Cripple Creek, these legendary mining towns that produced this enormous bounty of wealth. Instead of fulfilling his dream of going south to Mexico, Palmer turned his vision westward.

He had already thought of putting through a railroad to Salt Lake that would allow him to compete with "Uncle Pete," the ultimate power, Union Pacific. And by 1882 the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad had connected Denver and Salt Lake by rail. They had done it, however, through Pueblo because the D&RG got into the Rockies up the Canyon of the Arkansas, the Royal Gorge.

That was a real difficult piece of railroad building that involved a war because there were competing interests between the Kansas Pacific, which hired a notorious gunman named Bat Masterson, to fund the deal or to help drive the deal and Palmer who had many Civil War veteran friends who were perfectly happy to take on a war over the Gateway to the Rockies. What Palmer had to do was take this enormous detour south from Denver, up the Royal Gorge, and then across a series of very, very difficult passes. Why didn't Palmer simply go straight directly west from Denver? This is the two word answer to the question why didn't the railroad ever come to Vernal? It is JAMES PEAK. It is the great mountain that sits directly west of Denver that can be surmounted by Rollins Pass and the difficulty of putting a railroad over that part of the Continental Divide detoured the Denver & Rio Grande.

Now by 1880, the D&RG was founded in 1870; by 1880 business interests had forced Palmer out of the Denver & Rio Grande. He turned his attention to the Denver & Rio Grande Western, which handled the Utah section of the D&RG, because Utah law required that the owners live in Utah. So he sent a friend named Bell, who established the legal residence, and Bell was the official head and Palmer, of course, ran the railroad.

But the financiers had run Palmer out of the Colorado railroad business. He still succeeded with a number of his other enterprises and died a multi-millionaire, who gave half of his wealth to colleges, schools for the deaf and philanthropy, a model robber-baron, who almost, in many ways, defies the stereotype of the robber-baron.

One of Palmer's successors, as president of the Denver & Rio Grande, was another

But the financial interests that ultimately took over the D&RG were named Gould. Jay Gould, the notorious financial buccaneer, who had brought on, with his friends, the Great Depression of 1873, an absolutely ruthless and reckless speculator, who fortunately or not, died young. His interests passed to his son, George Gould, who spent his career milking the Denver & Rio Grande to finance his own vision of a transcontinental railroad, which he did finally complete with the building of the Western Pacific Railroad, which connected Salt Lake through the Feather River Canyon to Oakland.

But Moffat had that vision of the "airline route," the direct way to get from Denver. Over through James Peak would have been the ultimate solution but he was compelled to build over Rawlins Pass, which is more than 10,000 feet in elevation, then up through the middle part of Colorado and then striking off to the northwest up through Crater, Toponas(?), Yampa, getting over into the headwaters of the Colorado River and ultimately, he was able to build the railroad all the way to, ok, where's Craig? Craig's out here--White River, Jensen, nope, I didn't, I went up too far. Craig's right up in here.

Sam: The map is not to scale.

Will: Well, it's close. No, it's not that close. It doesn't have Craig on it yet. Well Craig didn't exist. See when this map was made it only went to Steamboat Springs--no, there's Craig. The discovery of oil around Craig allowed Moffat to get this far. But what killed David Moffat's vision was right here, James Peak. The original name of the railroad was The Denver Northwestern & Pacific Railroad. It was known by everybody as the Moffat Road. It was eventually--it took the name The Denver & Salt Lake because Moffat didn't ever make it west of Craig and he had to abandon his vision of opening the northwest with an alternate railroad to the Oregon Shortline.

His incomplete vision, in many ways, hobbled the future of railroad development throughout the entire region and the problems created by James Peak were murder for the Denver & Salt Lake Railroad. They spent, every year, ten million dollars clearing the snow from the tracks to get their freight and passengers service over James Peak. Now that's a pretty hefty bill and it also was supplemented by the huge demands of coal. It took an enormous amount of coal to take freight trains over this enormous climb and so the finances were death.

The New York managers of the Denver & Salt Lake found men who would dance to their tune.

"One such promoter was William R. Freeman, president of the Denver & Salt Lake Railway Company. Launched in 1902 as the Denver, Northwestern & Pacific Railroad by David Hallday Moffat, the D&SL was popularly known as the "Moffat Line" after its visionary founder. Moffat consumed his \$10 million fortune building switchbacks to surmount Rollins Pass, at an elevation of 11,670 feet, the highest spot on any American railroad. He dreamed of tunneling under James Peak and the Continental Divide to open a direct "airline" railroad between Denver and Salt Lake that would shorten the existing Denver & Rio Grande route via Pueblo and the Royal Gorge by 173 miles and cut the running time for passenger trains between the two cities by at least eight hours. In 1921, ten years after Moffat's death, the state of Colorado finally financed the project. The D&SL line ended at the coalfields around Craig, Colorado, 346 miles short of Salt Lake, so the Moffat Tunnel was mocked as "Moffat's Folly" or "The Gateway to Nowhere." (You know, the poor Uinta Basin doesn't get any respect, does it?) But it was an essential component of a long-wished for dream in Colorado—the creation of a transcontinental railroad system through the state that could compete with the Union Pacific behemoth bestriding the north and the Santa Fe colossus dominating the south. With the contentious completion of the Dotsero Cutoff in 1934, which linked the D&RGW with the D&SL, this long-standing dream was on the verge of becoming a reality."

The Dotsero Cutoff, see this doesn't even have the D&RG on it, but the D&RG went down this way and ultimately, I believe this was, there was another link that would connect the—oh, here's the D&RG line, and it was this little piece that would have connected the D&RG with the Denver & Salt Lake and also, of course, would open up the D&RG to using that "airline" route, if it could secure control of the Denver & Salt Lake.

Now. I need to put in some narrative here. because this takes the story to 1934 and it

ethical standard for management, that I believe, is the most powerful message in this book.

He came to the railroad through a very interesting political career. He'd been born in American Fork, Utah, two years after the completion of the Denver & Rio Grande to Salt Lake. He was the son of an Irish Mormon polygamist. His father, Charles McCarthy, had been raised a Roman Catholic, a son of Irish immigrants, had come West as a teamster, had worked for the Union Pacific Railroad, was a man who wanted to be a rancher. He homesteaded in Grass Valley along the Sevier River.

He had that compelling western vision of establishing his own empire in the west, a little empire based on cattle. He married a beautiful young Mormon woman and converted to the church. After five years they hadn't had any children, and since children are so essential in the Mormon religion, they cast about for a solution, which was offered by Mary Mercer McCarthy's younger sister, Margaret McCarthy, who was later known as Aunt Maud.

And so Charles entered the covenant of celestial marriage with Mary's equally, if not more beautiful, younger sister. As often happens in these kinds of situations, Mary was with child almost immediately and her poor sister never had any children. But apparently she inspired something in Mary and Mary had four children, one of them died, but she had two sons who grew up to be cowboys and a beautiful daughter who married a prominent Salt Lake educator.

Charles had all the complications of being a Mormon in the 1880s. He served time in the territorial penitentiary. He fell in with John W. Young, one of Brigham Young's favorite sons, who was also a great railroad speculator and a pretty thorough going scoundrel. Of all Brigham Young's sons, he may have the most interesting story, but he wound up running an elevator in an expensive apartment in New York, talking about all the great deals he had made.

But it was another dynamic, young Mormon entrepreneur who had the biggest impact on the McCarthys. It was John W. Taylor; for my money, one of the most charismatic and dynamic people to ever lead the Mormon Church. He also was a tremendous promoter. He had a business card that he issued from his office in the Judge building (I have one, after having the card from the Judge building as I like that date!) but it

Mormon entrepreneur named Jesse Knight to go up and take a look and Knight sent his two sons up. They looked at this incredible grassland and they came back and they told their father that there was only one thing that bothered them. There was all this grass and there weren't any cows. Now there were several reasons for that, partly because nobody had brought in cows yet and the buffalo had all been killed off. But it was an insightful observation about Alberta.

Charles McCarthy went up, bought a substantial section of land, several sections of land, in fact, and then drove his Utah cattle herd, with his ten and twelve year old sons, all the way north to Montana. And as Wilson McCarthy liked to say: "When we did that, there wasn't a fence between Helena and the North Pole." It took them ten weeks, they came in looking pretty bedraggled, as his sister recalled, but it made a man out of a ten year boy.

But Wilson went after, ironically after the Great Devastating Winter of 1906, Wilson had fallen in love with another attractive young Mormon woman named Minerva Woolley. And she didn't want her husband to be a cowboy. She thought he had more in him and through political connections of his father, but also through what he had shown about his own character and what he would do in terms of working on the range, was able to go to Ottawa or Toronto and be admitted to Osgood Hall, the finest law school in Canada, transferred to Columbia University's law school and emerged in 1912 with a law degree. He returned to Salt Lake City and very quickly rose through the political ranks.

In 1914 he was elected assistant Salt Lake County Attorney. In 1919 he was appointed a judge; he didn't like the judge business very well so he resigned and went into private practice in banking. But he was always known ever afterwards as Judge McCarthy.

He made a fortune in the 1920s in banking which was hard to do because the banking business was so chaotic. Banks folded all the time, there was no deposit insurance—you either had to be a complete crook or a man of substantial character to do well in banking in the 1920s. I know Wilson McCarthy, at this point, and he did it out of his character and his ability to realize that you didn't make loans to people who couldn't pay them back. Now we don't think that this is the basic rule of banking, right? Well, it was for a long, long, long time.

collapse of credit. No one could borrow money. There wasn't any capital. There was no liquidity in the system because the price of everything had collapsed and nothing was worth anything. So Hoover turned to business and said you have to fix this problem by making capital available.

He met with the top corporate and financial leaders in November of 1931 and what did they tell him? Well, right at the time, they were all shipping their money to Europe in gold. They were shipping off as much of their wealth as they could because they thought there would be a revolution and they'd be out of business. And they told the President of the United States, who had written a book called American Individualism, and believed in the market and free economies and that the market would ultimately solve everything. They told him, "We don't want to do it. You do it. It's the government's job."

And so Hoover had to violate all of his ideals and say ok, we have to do something. And what he did was the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, which at least was responsibly organized. At least the idea was that they would lend out capital. They would revitalize American business, but they'd get it paid back. Ultimately the Reconstruction Finance Corporation lent fifty billion dollars, and this is before inflation. At that time, fifty billion dollars was enough to rebuild the United States, not completely, and the Reconstruction Finance Corporation had big problems, mostly because who did they lend money to—banks and railroads. Banks that were hopelessly corrupt and inept and railroads that were all bankrupt. (Laughter) This would be funny if it wasn't so scary.

But seven men were appointed to the board, Wilson McCarthy was appointed to represent western democrats. He became, overnight, one of the most powerful men in the United States. In that position, he helped extend credit to farmers. He set up some of the basic programs that became the FDA, the Bureau of Land Management, Land Reclamation and ultimately, when Wilson died, his widow received letters from ranchers saying, you helped save my farm, you helped save my ranch in the depths of the depression and I'll be eternally grateful.

But unlike, almost anybody else you hear about that goes to D.C., Wilson wasn't taken by it. His wife didn't like it. For some reason, the seductions of power just didn't work

After serving only about eighteen months, in this incredibly powerful position, McCarthy resigned and returned to private practice, moved to California, established a law firm and was again pursuing his expertise in banking and railroads, not railroads, but banking and ranching, land law and would have been perfectly happy to do that, except he got a call from the man who had taken over the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, a great Texas entrepreneur and financial pioneer and another democrat, named Jesse Jones. Jesse said, "Wilson, we have this dead railroad we need you to save." The railroad was the Denver & Salt Lake and it wasn't bankruptcy and it had been ruled, well, I think I may be getting ahead of myself.

But this is essentially what happened to the Denver & Salt Lake railroad. The bankrupt Moffat road was already in disastrous shape when Freeman and Claude Betcher took over as co-receivers in 1917. But Freeman was less interested in solving the lines problems than he was in feathering his own nest. The government had to take control of the Moffat a year later after two hundred and eighty of its unpaid employees went on strike. And the Denver Post charged Freeman with water logging the road while secretly planning to junk the property.

Now William Freeman would do very well on Wall Street today and would probably walk away as the president of Leeman Brothers has done, not with the half billion dollars that was alleged, but only 250 million dollars after destroying one of America's great financial institutions, which as he told Congress yesterday, is still a lot of money, I think.

But rather than build the two point six mile tunnel under Rollins Pass that Moffat had projected, which would eliminate the forty per cent of its income the lines spent on snow removal and the two thousand dollar daily bill for coal to climb the four per cent grade to its summit, the receivers chose instead to slash maintenance and wages. Miraculously no passenger ever died while riding on the perilous Moffat. But as engineer, A.C. Ridgeway, said when he quit the road, "It is going to be a graveyard for railroad men." It was. To cut costs, the Trustees closed the line shops in 1921, reduced passenger service, and cut wages by twenty per cent. After a rock fall blocked a tunnel in 1922, it appeared the road might never open again.

The discovery of oil on Colorado's western slope and a booming coal business kept the Moffat Road in business. But when Freeman took over as president, he continued "To

keep, Jones wrote in 1937. Loose rails rested on rotten ties, 35 year old timber supported the roads, 55 tunnels and occasionally the disintegrating infra-structure spilled trains into a canyon or down a mountainside. Jones began a major effort to rebuild the line in 1958 but Freeman fought him at every step, resisting such essential upgrades as renewing the ties and replacing the Moffat tunnels timbers with concrete supports which saved the road more than a million dollars. The two men fought what the railroad's chronicler, a former gandy dancer named Edward T. Ballinger, called an epic battle.

Tragically, too many men like William Freeman were running America's most important industry and neglected their duty to keep the wheels on the nation's economy. The dismal condition of the Denver & Salt Lake was hardly unique. After years of exploitation and neglect by the powerful financiers who controlled them, the country's railroads were in terrible shape. Yet, Freeman's incompetent reign proved personally profitable.

The D&SL's income disappeared during the depression but the property was worth 20.25 million in 1935 when the Denver & Rio Grande Western fulfilled its agreement to buy the line. Freeman and his allies got rich selling stock worth \$40 a share for the massively inflated price of one hundred fifty-five dollars. But the purchase bankrupted one of west's most legendary railroads, The Denver & Rio Grande.

And it was at that moment that they called in Wilson McCarthy to take over the D&RG and he did it by working with the men and women who ran the railroad, by inspiring them, by providing them an example of hard work and character and showing that he cared about them, that it was their railroad, that if it was going to work, they were the people who were going to make it work.

And when Wilson McCarthy died in 1956 the workers on the railroad gave his family an enormous bronze plaque commemorating his service to the railroad. At 11:00 p.m. on February 20th, 1956 every worker and every train on the D&RG stopped for two minutes to give honor to Wilson McCarthy.

Now when Wilson took the Denver & Salt Lake there is probably nothing more he would have liked to do than to complete the 386 miles to Salt Lake, actually all he had to do was get to Utah where there was a D&RG connection that would have gone down

And I'm not much of a prophet, but I will make this prophecy. I believe that America's railroads are going to come back. I believe that the fix we have got ourselves into, the hole we have dug that is so deep it doesn't look like we can escape it, will compel us to look again at what's the best way to transport freight.

Do we really need to rebuild our freeways every seven years so we can run inefficient heavy truck traffic down it and lose tens of thousands of lives every year? What if we transferred all heavy freight to railroads? We wouldn't put a single truck driver out of work because we'd have them picking the stuff up from the railroads and doing local deliveries. And I know long haul truckers and it is a dog's life. If those men could work near their homes at decent wages, it would be like retirement. It would be a salvation for them and it would save the American tax payer and the American economy billions of dollars every year.

And I believe that someday when this necessity to save oil and energy is driven home and when we realize so many of the railroad corridors are too crammed to put more railroads through, go look at Green River, very, very tough to add more lines through Green River. But I think someday, we might see not just a direct line connection between Salt Lake and Denver, but a high speed train.

This, I believe, is the kind of vision we need to save our country and I'm proud to have written the biography of a great American, who I believe provides the example of the kind of character and integrity we have to have to save our country.

Thank you for coming.

WHY THE RAILROAD NEVER CAME TO VERNAL

Uintah County Library

155 East Main

U.S. 40 past WalMart to Main

Two miles into town: Helicopter on left

7 October 2008

Will Bagley

THE UINTAH RAILWAY: "THE CROOKEDEST RAILROAD IN THE WEST"
"the snorting, twisting, puffing little Uintah Railway. Just 63 miles long, it lived only 35 years hauling Gilsonite."

Mack, Colorado to Dragon, Utah, crossing 73 bridges. Eventually extended to Watson and then to the Gilsonite mines at Rainbow.

Highest point: 8, Baxter Pass, 8,437 feet

DENVER & SALT LAKE

One such promoter was William R. Freeman, president of the Denver & Salt Lake Railway Company. Launched in 1902 as the Denver, Northwestern & Pacific Railroad by David Halliday Moffat, the D&SL was popularly known as the "Moffat Line" after its visionary founder. Moffat consumed his \$10 million fortune building switchbacks to surmount Rollins Pass, at an elevation of 11,670 feet the highest spot on any American railroad. He dreamed of tunneling under James Peak and the Continental Divide to open a direct "airline" railroad between Denver and Salt Lake that would shorten the existing Denver & Rio Grande route via Pueblo and the Royal

map

Folly” or “The Gateway to Nowhere.” But it was an essential component of a long-wished for dream in Colorado—the creation of a transcontinental railroad system through the state that could compete with the Union Pacific behemoth bestriding the north and the Santa Fe colossus dominating the south. With the contentious completion of the Dotsero Cutoff in 1934, which linked the D&RGW with the D&SL, this long-standing dream was on the verge of becoming a reality.¹

The bankrupt Moffat Road was already in disastrous shape when Freeman and Claude Boettcher took over as co-receivers in 1917, but Freeman was less interested in solving the line’s problems than he was in feathering his own nest. The government had to take control of the Moffat a year later after 280 of its unpaid employees went on strike, and the *Denver Post* charged Freeman with “waterlogging” the road while secretly planning to junk the property.² Rather than build a 2.6-mile tunnel under Rollins Pass, which would eliminate the 40 percent of its income the line spent on snow removal and the \$2,000 daily bill for coal to climb the 4-percent grade to its summit, the receivers chose instead to slash maintenance and wages. Miraculously, no passenger ever died while riding on the perilous Moffat, but as engineer A. C. Ridgeway said when he quit the road, “it is going to be a graveyard for railroad men.” It was. To cut costs, the trustees closed the line’s shops in 1921, reduced passenger

coal business kept the Moffat Road in business, but when Freeman took over as president, he continued "to take food out of the bellies of the men by the low wages he paid" and began privately investing in the railroad's bonds, which he knew would skyrocket in value if the public ever funded David Moffat's old dream of building a tunnel under James Peak.

W. C. Jones became the railroad's chief engineer in 1926. He found the Moffat's right-of-way strewn with the wreckage of past disasters and junk that had fallen off the line's decrepit rolling stock. "Maintenance was non-existent, for there were no funds for roadway upkeep," Jones wrote in 1937. Loose rails rested on rotten ties, thirty-five-year-old timbers supported the road's fifty-five tunnels, and occasionally the disintegrating infrastructure "spilled trains into a cañon or down a mountainside." Jones began a major effort to rebuild the line in 1928, but Freeman fought him at every step, resisting such essential upgrades as renewing the ties or replacing the Moffat Tunnel's timbers with concrete supports, which saved the road more than a million dollars. The two men fought what the railroad's chronicler, former D&SL gandy dancer Edward T. Bollinger, called an epic battle.⁴

Tragically, too many men like William Freeman were running America's most important industry and neglected their duty to keep the wheels turning on the nation's economy. The dismal condition of

during the Depression. But the property was worth \$20.25 million in 1935 when the Denver & Rio Grande Western (D&RGW) fulfilled its agreement to buy the line. Freeman and his allies got rich selling stock worth forty dollars a share for the massively inflated price of \$155, but the purchase bankrupted one of the West's most legendary railroads.⁵

END

I predict the railroad *will* come to Vernal.

Plug McCarthy

A WORDSMITH'S TALE: DAVE FELTER, A MYTON POET

BY SYDNEY WHITE

Dave Felter is a local veteran who has spent most of his life living in the Uintah Basin. He was born in Myton, and that's where he lives now, at 73-years-old. Felter has been in the military, a farmer, a construction worker and a natural poet. With Kathleen Cooper, Mayor of Myton, as the driving force, Felter's poems have recently been compiled into a book.

Felter says the book was all Mayor Cooper's idea and at first he was not onboard.

"I wrote one poem in [the book] for the veterans of World War II, and [Kathleen Cooper's] dad is a good friend of mine and he liked [the poems] so he wanted to know if I had more poems," Felter said. "I got more and more and more, and pretty soon [Cooper] decided she wanted to make a book out of them."

Then an idea struck: the proceeds of the book could go toward building a veterans memorial in Myton. With this purpose in mind, Felter decided he would be happy to share his collection of poems.

"It got to a certain point, and Dave came and said, 'Well Kathleen, you keep saying I could sell a book. Well I don't think it will, but if it would, and we could make some money to help the veterans' memo-

rial, then I think I'd like to try to do that.' So at that point, I gathered all his poems together that I could find, and had my sister and some of her friends from publishing houses put them into a book format. I went about and found pictures to go with each one, that are sort of evocative. And then I contacted the state prison and they print books and so they were able to [publish] for us," Cooper said.

"I could always write poetry, I just never did it," said Felter of his history with poetry. "Oh, probably 10, 20 years ago I started writing [them] down."

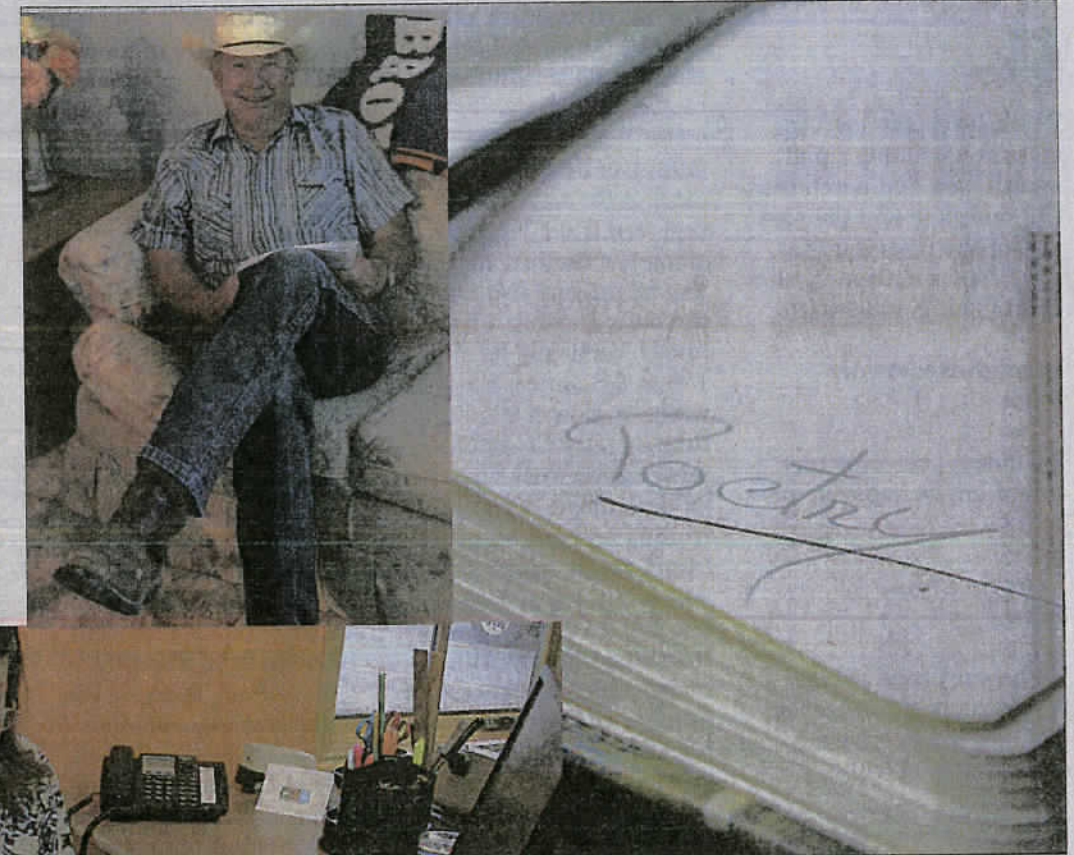
In explaining where he gets his inspiration, Felter said, "I have no idea. Well, there's some of them that I sit down to write, like the one for the World War II veterans. And there's one in there I wrote about the Trade Centers, when it got bombed. I sat down and thought about that.

There's a few that I just sit at the computer and let my mind wander and pretty soon I can come up with something."

Having served in the military, it's no surprise that Felter has written some patriotic poems and that a possible veterans memorial is a cause he would like to support. "Well, I was drafted in 1965," Felter recalls. "I went to parachute school. I ended up in a special forces group down at Fort Bragg

and spent a year and a half or so down there, and then got out."

Felter added, "I figure whatever little bit we make on this book would go toward that project [the memorial]. I hope it's good because we could really use the money for this memorial. [The poems] are about everything but mostly they're about the mountains. But not all of them. It's quite an eclectic book. They're poems about everything. They're about addiction, impressions, time. You'll have to look at



COURTESY PHOTOS



Myton poet, Dave Felter has compiled a book of poetry he recently published. Felter is donating the proceeds of the book to help fund building a Veterans Memorial in Myton. Myton Mayor Kathleen Cooper (left) works at her desk at the Myton City Office. Cooper has been the driving force behind Dave Felter's recently published book of poetry, according to Felter. Cooper has served as one of the motivating forces behind Felter as he seeks to donate all the proceeds from his poetry book to help fund a new Veterans Memorial for the City of Myton.

it and see."

One of Felter's personal favorites from the book is called "Time is a River" about Desolation Canyon near the Green River.

While Felter is very modest about his skill as a poet, Mayor Cooper affirms that he really is talented and the poems are very good. "We need to get it out,"

said Mayor Cooper. "Everybody should have a copy of this and they should read this to their children at night. It's amazing. You will be amazed."

Copies of Felter's poetry collection will be available at Stewart's Marketplace and Davis Food and Drug and local bookstores.

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NO. 0538

Vernal Express
Aug 21, 2018

Abusive family life revealed in book by local author

By Steve Puro
 Uintah Basin Standard

Dianne Blaine Hardy grew up in Roosevelt. She knows its pulse and its people. That knowledge makes the foundation for her new book, "For Cryin' Out Loud".

Hardy's book covers her formative years growing up in Roosevelt during the 50's until her marriage in 1961.

"I wrote the book because I realized I needed to heal," Hardy said. "I realized I needed to write about my childhood and tell everything."

The work is a non-fiction about Hardy growing up in Roosevelt where her dad was a school principal and her mom a teacher.

"The facts of the story are absolutely true," Hardy said. "It worked, and the writing process helped me heal."

Hardy described her father, John Blaine, who is now deceased, as a pillar of the community.

"He served as principal of the only elementary school in Roosevelt. He was a bishop in the Mormon church here and he was everybody's favorite teacher," Hardy said.

"But at home he was a tyrant and he was literally beating the hell out of me every day, and there was sexual abuse. There was everything," she said.

Hardy considers her mother equally culpable for the

Hardy's mom is still living and is now 92 years old. Her parents stayed together she believes because of their temple marriage.

"Mother asked to read an earlier copy of the book, saying she thought she could handle it," Hardy said. "The truth is she couldn't. She threw it across the room."

The book isn't mentioned anymore in conversation with her mom.

Hardy has changed the names of people in Roosevelt who are included the story line, but she has kept the names of her immediate family.

"I put in descriptions of life as I remember it from that time," Hardy said. "I describe the cars and the music and all

kinds of things that were part of life then."

Hardy recounts good times with her parents too, but her siblings don't agree with her recollection of those times.

"In fact, my brother said, 'You're being way too nice'," she said.

Hardy's book is available on Amazon.com for \$14.99 plus shipping and she also hopes to have copies available locally.

Hardy will be on hand for a book signing to be held this Saturday, May 19 from 1 until 3 p.m. at the Roosevelt Library. The book will be available at the signing for a flat \$15.



STEVE PURO, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

Former resident and local author Dianne Blaine Hardy will have a book signing for her tell all book about growing up in an abusive household in Roosevelt. The signing will take place this Saturday, May 19 from

ON THE RIVER WITH
Pam Houston

UINTAH COUNTY LIBRARY
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NO. 623

Adventure, a Cure for Bad-Love Blues

By MOLLY O'NEILL



Tim Kelly for The New York Times

When not running the Yampa River, Pam Houston sometimes relaxes in an old bathtub at home in Jensen, Utah.

JENSEN, Utah

IT'S a blue-sky day, and the Yampa River is pumping like a wet pulse when Pam Houston tells you to push off. "Just push the raft and jump in fast," she says. "I mean it. The river's going to take the boat, and I won't be able to stop for almost a mile."

The mud squishes sickeningly around your ankles. The water, melted snow, lashes cold, red welts up to your knees as you wade and heave. The spank of the river makes you yelp like a newborn as you dive toward the 15½-foot, custom-fitted red rubber raft.

In the next three days you will push off again and again. Sometimes the current will be a lazy caress; other times it will try to pull you down like a spiteful lover. You will learn its moods, and eventually you will learn to control your unseemly squeal. But you'll never feel like anything but a passenger on the Titanic diving toward the last lifeboat as you lurch to the raft.

Pam Houston, on the other hand, will usually lean into the oars with the look of somebody about to fall into a new dream. The 30-year-old author of "Cowboys Are My Weakness" (W. W. Norton, 1992) likes rough rivers, mean mountains, wild horses and restless men. Her collection of short stories is an odyssey of a young woman who develops a habit of bad love and uses adventure both to recover and to carve a place for herself in the American West.

In the last six months, "Cowboys" has been critically acclaimed, climbed best-seller lists, garnered Hollywood offers and turned its author, who is also a licensed river runner, hunting guide, horse trainer and ski instructor, into a bit of a cult figure. Sort of the Annie Oakley for women who love too much.

Television audiences can't get enough of her. And you were mesmerized, too, by the frank blue eyes and lank, sun-streaked hair, by the silver mustang bucking on the lapel of her jacket. And the voice! That sweet, pink-cashmere-sweater voice that

Continued on Page C8

New York Times Wed. July 15, 1993 pC1

Adventure, a Cure for Bad-Love Blues

ON THE RIVER WITH
Pam Houston

sheep carcasses on her back across Alaskan mountains, camped in snow caves and defied a river that just a day before had killed a woman — all for the love of various men.

"I've always had this thing for cowboys," she wrote in "Cowboys," "maybe because I was born in New Jersey." She's a former sorority sister who used adventure rather than ambition to define herself. Maybe she's found a way through the thicket of love in the time of equality.

What exactly is a cowboy? you asked her on the telephone.

"This talk show host in Portland, Ore., asked me that. He brought in these five big, strapping guys and asked me to choose the real cowboy. I asked Cowboy No. 1, 'What do you love?' He said, 'I love my horse, m'am.' Cowboy No. 2 loved the rodeo, which left Cowboy No. 4 with nothing new to say. Cowboy No. 5 said he liked a lot of things. I chose him. He was the only one who couldn't use the word 'love' in a sentence."

"Isn't this a little retro?" you said. "Well, some people, especially feminists, get mad at me for glorifying an archaic form of masculinity," she said softly. "And then I got accused of make-bashing. I was really surprised. I mean, my characters do learn. I've learned."

especially so if I were in Mr. House-
ton's story," Selwyn said, "and
her boyfriend died death on a river,
escaping it by luck." He thought he
had a chance to tame that wild river,
but I knew I was at its mercy from
the very beginning, and I thought all
along that was the point."

Her ears dip and splash, steady as
a metronome, pulling the raft along a
bend, into a wide canyon of skyscrap-
er-size pink and purple rock.

"We have a better sense of what's below the surface and how to move with it," she says. "We're not as startled by the unexpected." She squints toward Mr. Eikington's boat, watching it drift and bob, the way she watches logs on a river to get a sense of the current.

"We just got married," she says, smiling. "It's all very new." Fear of commitment is a river she knew well. Determined love is a different sort of

"It's one of the 10 biggest dips in the continental U.S. We'll get to it tomorrow," she says.

As she is cooking dinner, you clean lettuce and worry about Warm Springs. She is worried, too. Late at night, you hear her talking to Mr. Elkington: "I've done that rapid sleeping bag over your head. You swear that if you make it through Warm Springs in one piece, you will never, under any circumstances conduct an interview on a river again. But the morning is bright and blue, and the river is a lazy glide. She talks about growing up in New Jersey, the only child of an actress who toured with Jack Benny and a businessman who ran "failing companies." Her father wanted her to be Chris Evert, but she had little talent for tennis. "I'm clumsy," she says.

She studied English at Denison University in Ohio, graduated second in her class and then, with a girlfriend,

"Hiking up to the canyon above the rapids, Mrs. Houston says that Warm Springs isn't so bad today. It looks like Niagara Falls to you. And you can tell that she is scared. She is rubbing the zigzag scar on her arm. The water is so loud, you can't hear what she says to Mr. Elkington, or what he says to her. They are holding hands. You are holding your breath. Katie is pushing off from the bank. "She should have gone to the left of that rock," whispers Mrs. Houston. "There's a big hole down there. Oh, God, she's headed to the wall." Some-how, Katie makes it through. Mrs. Houston nods and smiles. "She's not a sorry, adding that you will be fine, just fine, that you will follow Mike through Warm Springs. So probably, she is just as scared as you. When the first wave of the rapid smashes over your boat, both of you scream like infants being baptized, both of you hold on.

rode her bicycle across Canada and down to Colorado, where she stayed, working as a bartender, a ski instructor, a flag woman on a highway crew. She fell in love, first with cowboys, then with the landscape they represent. Eventually, she entered a doctoral program at the University of Utah, "cowboys Are My Weakness" is the title of her dissertation. Her voice is as gentle as the sway of the river. You talk about Huck Finn: "Other places do seem so cramped up and smothery, but a raft and easy and comfortable on a raft." This particular freedom is a patch of blue sky through an open window in the young life of Pam Houston, a way to move outside her own fears and demons. The scale of the landscape puts things in a different perspective, too. Eliding along, the silhouette of Mr. Elkingdon's raft appears as small as a toy against Dry Woman Canyon. "I like seeing men in front of mountains or canyons," Ms. Houston fears. "Then you hear Warm Springs. Fear rises like nausea in your throat. You feel too sick even to get squeamish as to the up the raft. Katie and the Bud

in South Africa.



Tim Kelly for The New York Times

Continued From Page C1

AUTHOR ANNOUNCES NEW BOOK



Regional best selling author, Diana Allen Kouris, reports that her new book, *Riding the Edge of an Era: Growing Up Cowboy on the Outlaw Trail*, has recently been released.

Described as an elegant and captivating true story, the book portrays the author's life on the historic Brown's Park Livestock Ranch, where in the 1800s outlaws, including Butch Cassidy, found sanctuary.

"Magical," is how Kouris describes her childhood spent in the midst of a large and busy family, including sidekick siblings Nonie and Bobby. In their remote valley on the Green River near the legendary "three corners" country of Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah, time had slowed allowing the children to live and flourish within the Old West cattle ranching legacy begun by their grandparents. As the three rode their cow horses together, they absorbed the history of the land and the lifestyle of its characters while we learning cowboy skills, responsibility, and self-reliance.

Kouris takes the reader into the magnificent, sometimes achingly hard world of cattle drives in relentless weather and into moments of laughter and tragedy. She recounts stories of strength and courage, such as the evening her mother crawled across the swinging bridge in a storm to bring the family home and the moments when her brother experienced "perfect freedom" as he ran wild horses.

Ironically, it was the land's uniqueness and beauty that brought lasting change for the three siblings as they tried to hold on to each other and to a vanishing era. But because the author rode on the edge of that era...

Author wins grant to write about Basin perspective

By Mindy Mitchell

Being drawn to the beauty and diversity of the Uintah Basin is common for many people who travel through eastern Utah. However few take the time to sit down and write about their experiences in "Dinosaur Land." In 1974 while doing research at Dinosaur National Monument and guiding white water rafting trips down the Green and Yampa rivers, geologist and writer Rebecca Lawton became intrigued with the area and was compelled to write about it.

Lawton finds herself lured to the Uintah Basin which she describes as "a fierce landscape whose inhabitants include river runners, oilfield workers, cowhands, missionaries, and alfalfa farmers."

The 51-year-old native Californian, who has previously published works set in eastern Utah, is returning her focus to the Uintah Basin with a collection of essays about the Vernal and Jensen areas.

Lawton recently won the 2006 Desert Writers Award receiving a \$1,000 grant from The Ellen Meloy Fund. The money will help support her writing project entitled "Oil and Water," a collection of essays which will be drawn from subject interviews.

She plans to investigate the "wildly different views," apparent in the Uintah Basin and said that

of the Green River."

"The land will give testimony to those who inhabit it," she states. "I feel the details of it won't be known to me until I visit to do my research."

Lawton needs all the local support she can get while doing her research. She's particularly interested in interviewing people from the Vernal and Jensen areas, where her work is set.

"I'd like to spend time talking to at least one person in each of these occupations: river running, oil business, grazing/ranching, hay farming and other natural resource professions."

She's also interested in learning more about the reason behind the economic upswing the area is enjoying. "I'll want to know everything I can about the current oil boom and may find a way to include it in my work," she said.

Lawton will be short on time when she makes her visit to the Basin and will be in Uintah County for about a week or less.

"I will try to visit with as many people as I can," she said, adding that her arrival time will be influenced in part by when people are available for interviews.

Anyone willing to share their views about the land in the Uintah Basin can email Lawton through her Web site www.beccalawton.com or write to her at P O Box 554, Vernal, UT 84655.



DESERT WRITER — Rebecca Lawton from California recently won the Desert Writers Award from the Ellen Mealy Fund. Her current work "Oil and Water" is envisioned as a collection of essays focusing on the diverse viewpoints about the land in the Vernal and Jensen areas. She speaks well of the basin and says that people in northeastern Utah are the "nicest in the world."

cal essays on dinosaurs, white water rafting adventures and death on the Green River.

"Taphonomy of the Dinosaur Quarry, Dinosaur National Monument" is a technical paper about how dinosaur bones were transported in ancient rivers before being buried and fossilized in the

published in "THEMA," a literary journal as well as in "Walking the Twilight: Women Writers of the Southwest" Volume II, an anthology which is now out of print.

Lawton's writing focuses on nature and science. She began writing seriously after high school and

Vernal Express

NO. 0538
Sept 25, 2013

Author invites Basiners to treasure hunt

By VERNAL PRESS/WRITER

Vernal Express

A local author has hidden treasures in the Uintah Basin and invites you to find them.

At 8 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 28 anyone interested in collecting the golden pyramid treasures along with other prizes can log on to B.K. Bostick's website, www.huberhill.com, and get the clue.

One treasure is hidden in Vernal, the other is in Roosevelt. Bostick also has five of his valuable caches hidden on the Wasatch Front. Treasure locations will be manned and the first to get to the easily accessible spot will receive not only prizes but he or she can also bring the golden pyramid to the book signing and receive hardback copies of the entire Huber Hill Trilogy.

This treasure hunt is in connection with the release of Bostick's third book in the Huber Hill series.

The first book was

"Huber Hill and the Deadman's Treasure." Then came, "Huber Hill and the Brotherhood of Coronado." This third and final book is called, "Huber Hill & the Golden Staff of Cibola."

These books, written for 9- to 12-year-olds, have been quite successful since Bostick, a 1994 graduate of Union High School, first penned them.

"This final book is a standalone piece," Bostick said.

The events found in this series were inspired by the stories Bostick heard from his own grandfather, Jay Larsen.

"When I was young, he entertained me with wild tales of hidden Spanish treasure and epic battles between Spaniards and Native Americans. I believed with absolute certainty that his stories were true.

I imagined myself and my friends separating ourselves from the adult world, going off on an adventure, and finding the treasure ourselves. Huber Hill and company have just such an adventure."

Bostick said his father owned books and maps that influenced him.

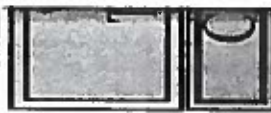
"Writers draw upon their own unique experiences and relationships when crafting characters and story lines," Bostick said. "If I hadn't grown up in the Basin, then it's safe to say this book would've never been written."

Duc

Plenty of and swans to hunters. But how do stay?

That's a sers are wor the start of waterfowl Oct. 5.

Blair St this past s one for wa western U Canada. T



Adults (12-59):
Evening, 11:00
Adults (12-59):
Evening, 11:00

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Uintah Basin Standard
16, August 2005 UTAH COUNTY LIBRARY
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Author of religious best-sellers has strong Roosevelt roots

Into this season of The Passion of the Christ and The DaVinci Code, of renewed faith and interest in Christ, comes a new book that will transport you back in time and allow you to walk the ancient Holy Land by Jesus' side.

Written by Heather Horrocks, whose family hails from Roosevelt, Men Who Knew The Mortal Messiah and her first book Women Who Knew The Mortal Messiah have already been performed in an original three-story musical program around the country.

Horrocks is the daughter of Reid and Loya Benson Hullinger

"Readers love the stories of these men and women and their encounters with Christ," Horrocks related. "Through their eyes, readers feel as though they are there, walking the ancient streets with the Savior, witnessing His love and miracles — and realize that Jesus feels this same love for people today and still performs miracles today. These women and men did not have to imagine the life-altering presence of Jesus — they knew."

Horrocks said that in writing these two books the real lesson she learned was that "faith is an action word."

Each of the stories involves a person being healed — physically, spiritually, emotionally.

"They were not healed solely because they believed in Jesus, rather they showed their faith by doing something. Some actively sought out Jesus hoping to be healed, like the woman who followed Him into the crowd and touched the hem of His robe," said Horrocks. "Others had not sought out Jesus, but He gave them a task that required faith to perform as when He put the clay on the eyes of the blind man and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam."

She said that got her thinking about how that applies to her daily life. "Is it enough to stay safe in my comfort zone saying 'I believe in Christ'? Or do I have to actively do the things I feel led to do, even if they take me far from the comfort of my zone?"

Horrocks has done extensive research to accurately describe



AUTHOR — Heather Horrocks was in Roosevelt recently to visit her family and to sign copies of her recently published book, *Men Who Knew the Mortal Messiah*. Horrocks lives in Utah, but lived in the Middle East as a teenager.

perspective for her work from the exposure she had to many cultures. In addition to living in South America and London, she spent her formative junior high and high school years in the Middle East, in both Kuwait and Iran.

She walked daily among women hidden under black chadors and veils and men wearing white robes and turbans, and had opportunity to witness the interplay, old as the sands, between male and female in the Middle Eastern culture.

Horrocks knows that Christ's message is as timely today as it was 2,000 years ago in Jerusalem. "The majority of people in America do believe in Christ and want to see Him portrayed in a positive manner."

She notes that Mel Gibson was determined to bring the story of the last week of Christ's life to the big screen, despite the resistance of the major movie distributors. The Passion of the Christ earned hundreds of millions of dollars and was re-released during Easter this year.

"Apparently American people of faith are drawn to serious and reverent works about Christ," she said.

As well as controversial ones. Dan Brown's *The DaVinci Code* shot to number one on the New York Times bestseller list its first week. Now numerous books by other authors, refuting the *DaVinci Code*, reside on bookstore shelves. Into this atmosphere of interest in Christ, comes Horrocks' *Men Who Knew The Mortal Messiah* with its stories of 12 New Testament men of faith who looked into the Savior's eyes and were forever changed.

This is the second book in this series, with more to come, next in the Old Testament. *Women Who Knew The Mortal Messiah* has been out for a little over a year and a half, hitting the top 30 on *Deseret Book's* inspirational bestseller list and garnering five-star reviews at Amazon.

tures with new insights.

Horrocks said her "Men Who Knew" series will continue by traveling back in time to the Old Testament. In addition, a picture book on baptism, is in the works and will be illustrated by Roosevelt resident and artist, Barbara Benson.

In her free time Horrocks said she enjoys relaxing with her family, playing the piano, watching good movies, and reading good books—through which she can travel again to exotic locales or even through time to other incredible eras. She lives with her husband Mark in Utah and their last two children who are still at home. She said she loves to hear from readers, who can reach her at her web site, www.heatherhorrocks.com.

Author shares close encounter of a different kind

Author Jon Christian Eagle, known locally as Roger Francke, tells of sitting at his computer on New Year's Eve 2001 to have his annual chat with his alter ego.

"This is a ritual I have practiced for over 20 years, in which I take a good long look at the data in which I still hold some modicum of faith, and that which is ready to be left behind."

He says a few moments into the dialogue he discovered, "to my complete horror that my fingers were suddenly being controlled by a mysterious voice from within that I initially feared to be that of the devil himself."

"After a frightening mental tug of war, I reluctantly agreed to follow my mysterious guide."

The author goes on to describe a journey that takes him on a frustrating, bewildering and often frightening conversational journey that overthrows traditional ideas and institutions.

He says the journey took him across the known and unknown reaches of space and time, through labyrinths of half-truths, historical

contradictions and ancient and modern speculation.

The tale is woven through a series of intriguing and often humorous dialogues in which his mysterious guide drags him through investigation of Biblical fables and myths, and on to discussions of arguable alien intervention in human evolution, the plausibility of the animal soul, transmigration of the soul, the truth about angels and soul mates, the likely quantum reality of God and a very workable understanding of the reality of the human soul.

"After an exhausting series of dialogues," he says, "I was at last brought to the realization that my mysterious voice was simply that all too often unheeded voice that speaks from within the heart of each of us."

Pretty deep stuff you might say for a man born and educated in Vernal. Fate entered into the picture in 1951 when he finished his high school education at Wasatch Academy in central Utah. It was at this small school where he met students from other parts of the world, and in this environment he says, "I



Roger Francke

was stimulated to rub intellectual elbows with a different outside world."

He was torn between following his Vernal physician father's footsteps into medicine and his own desire for a career acting in the film industry.

The latter won out and several years in Hollywood and New York City followed. He toured Europe on a motorcycle and eventually a sustained lucrative film career in Rome, Italy.

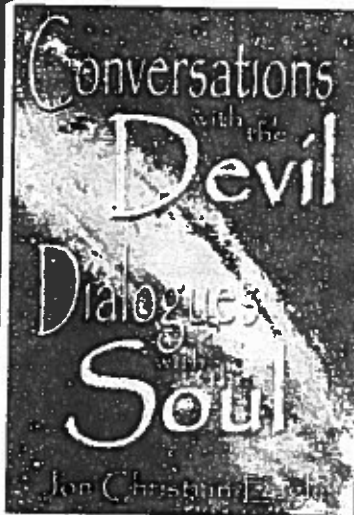
While filming a "spaghetti western" in the mountains of Spain, a near-death experience altered his life's direction and sent him off on a spiritual quest.

Eagle traveled the mountains of Tibet, through Nepal and India, through the Egyptian pyramids of Giza, into the jungles of Peru and Central America and into the heart of the Orient in search of what he believed to be another way of experiencing truth, health and well-being.

He admits that his book can be said to cover ideas that can be highly controversial, "to say nothing of the fact that many will view much of it as little more than down right heresy."

The pen name under which Francke wrote "Conversations with the Devil Dialogues with the Soul" is Jon Christian Eagle. The name was given to him by a shaman and close personal friend.

Bitter Creek Books will be hosting a special book signing for the author and his book, Saturday, Jan. 24 from 2-4 p.m.



**Bitter Creek
BOOKS**

Presents Local Author

Roger Francke

writing as

Jon Christian Eagle

will be signing

his new book

**Conversations
with the Devil
Dialogues with
the Soul**

**Saturday,
January 24th
2:00 - 4:00 pm
684 West Main
789-4742**

Author tells all about gold mines

There is gold in them hills, and A.C. Wilkerson knows it's there.

But knowing about it and getting your hands on it are two different things as Wilkerson explains in his book "Guide to the Lost Rhoades Gold Mines."

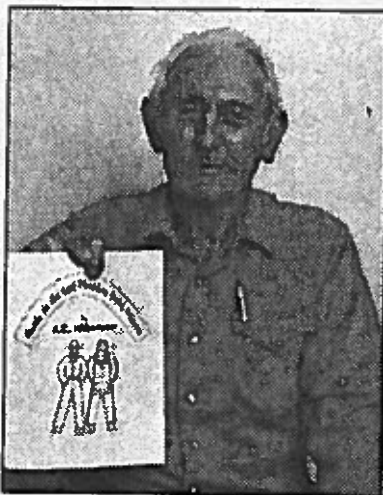
The staple-bound book of hand drawn maps, filing claims and narrative, is the result of Mr. Wilkerson's life-long interest in ore deposits in the Uinta Mountains.

"I, A.C. Wilkerson, being of sound mind but broken body hereby will and bequeath to everyone who buys my book and maps all of the information I have about the lost Rhoades mine," promised Wilkerson in the first chapter of the book. The book includes three Spanish maps and numerous other maps which each have a story behind them.

Wilkerson is well-known among local gold searchers as he was featured in the book "Footprints in the Wilderness; A History of the Lost Rhoades Mine and Of the Rhoades Family," one of the first publications concerning the Rhoades Mine.

"Someone should be able to locate these mines from the book," Wilkerson said. "I would go there myself, but two knee replacements keep me from doing much walking."

At one time Wilkerson lived and ranched in the Whitetails Canyon



A. C. Wilkerson, author

area where he became acquainted with many of the people he talks about in his book. Wilkerson and his boys now have a cattle and quarter horse ranch at the foot of the Uintas in Mosby Canyon. A young gelding threw him off and broke his leg last year, so he used the time recuperating to write the book.

Wilkerson will be 66 on his next birthday and wrote the book so he would not wind up like old Tom Rhoades. "He was killed by two young men and their girlfriends for the information he had about the mine," he states in the book.

The book sells at local book stores for \$50.

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Uintah Basin Standard
21, Mar 2006

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Author tells family history about Duchesne polygamist

By Karen Ady

The author of a novel set in Duchesne will be revisiting his Uintah Basin roots to promote his new book "The Leah Shadow." Former Brigham Young University professor Harold Moon has plans to contact as many Moons as he can find in the phone book and invite them to two book signings being held Saturday, March 25.

"I'm quite sure I'm related to everyone of them," Moon said, during an interview from his home in Orem. "There's quite a group there that have a common ancestor, Henry Moon. He had three wives and among those three wives there are a lot of his progeny living in the Uintah Basin."

Moon is an award winning author. His book "Ghost Coach," available in April, won first place from the Utah Art's Council in the young adult category. He also has a sequel and two prequels to The Leah Shadow ready for publication.

Following a period of missionary service in Argentina and several years in pursuit of university credentials Moon spent over 40 years teaching Spanish and French at Syracuse University and BYU.

The father of nine children, he has lived in Europe, Mexico, Paraguay and the Caribbean. He presently enjoys relief from university rigors and hopes to complete several writing projects and enjoy his grandchildren as they visit him and his devoted wife (he has

of polygamy. Nor is he "writing on the fringe of his faith."

"As a product of my particular forbears I cannot ignore the part polygamy played in their lives or the effect it has had on mine," he said.

Moon believes it is possible to be faithful to his religion while resurrecting a topic the LDS Church seems reluctant to talk about.

"That it was once sanctioned is a fact we can't deny or wish away," he said. "The Leah Shadow is not controversial and does not deny the Church's authenticity; quite the contrary. The principal characters, with all their flaws, struggle to live in obedience to what they understand of truth and divine expectations."

You can meet Harold Moon at Gale's Office Supply in Vernal, Saturday, March 25, 11 a.m. - noon and at Gales Office Supply in Roosevelt, Saturday, March 26, 2 - 4 p.m., where he will be signing copies of his novel.



Author Harold Moon will be in Vernal and Roosevelt this weekend to sign copies of his book, "The Leah Shadow."

Duchesne. The action from that point is divided between the family in Duchesne and the family in Mexico. The novel's development carries the burden of bringing them all together again.

The timing of Moon's book matches the growing interest Americans are showing in the controversial subject of plural marriage. At least two books focused on polygamy have made the New York Times Best-seller list in the last two years.

The upcoming premiere of HBO's Big Love is causing a big buzz in the Beehive State. Everyone from practicing polygamists

Author releases book inspired by

By ViAnn Prestwich
 Uintah Basin Standard

Spanish treasure hidden in the Uintah Basin and 18th century battles were part of the inspiration for a new middle-grade fiction book, **"Huber Hill and the Dead Man's Treasure."**

The author **B.K. Bostick** is a 1994 graduate of Union High School and will return to his hometown Friday to visit with students at King's Peak Elementary School and Roosevelt Junior High School. Bostick will also be at Inspirations Bookstore Nov. 5 for a book signing from 1-4 p.m.

The book, released last month, has been receiving positive reviews by both online reviewers and students who know the author.

"It's such an amazing feeling to know your words and story will be in the hands of thousands of young readers," Bostick said.

About four years ago, while he was working as a fifth grade teacher, Brandon Mull the author of the Fablehaven series came to the school for a visit.

"I remember thinking how wonderful it would be to inspire kids to read," Bostick said. "I'd always had a desire to write and felt like I knew my audience after working with that 9-12 age group as a teacher. I decided to give it a go and started writing 'Huber Hill and the Dead Man's Treasure' shortly after Brandon's visit.

"I let some of my students read it and they loved it," he said. "I knew they were biased, but I began shopping it around to publishers and found someone who believed in its potential."

The main character is a "tween" boy who is typically quiet, feels bullied at school, and isn't always appreciated by his teachers. As the book opens Huber is dealing with the loss of his grandfather. Dealing with his grandfather's death becomes easier after Huber opens a mysterious box left by the old man. An ancient gold coin and directions to a hidden Spanish treasure send the boy and his friends off on



B.K. Bostick

an adventure.

"The story of 'Huber Hill and the Dead Man's Treasure' was inspired by my own grandfather, Jay Larsen" Bostick said. "When I was young, he entertained me with wild tales of hidden Spanish treasure and epic battles between Spaniards and Native Americans. I believed with absolute certainty that his stories were true."

His father owned books and maps and he said that influenced his desire to go treasure hunting as a kid.

"Writers draw upon their own unique experiences and relationships when crafting characters and story lines," Bostick said. "If I hadn't grown up in the Basin, then it's safe to say this book would've never been written."

Much of his earliest education had an influence on his writing.

"I had many wonderful teachers in the Basin," he said, adding that he didn't have a favorite, but two teachers made a lasting impact on him, including Shirl Rawlings and Gary Colton.

Rawlings taught him how to think about the world in a different way and Colton, his elementary librarian, taught him how to research and became a mentor for Bostick through his teen years.

"I'll never forget them," Bostick said of his teachers.

The book was released Oct. 1 and the first two-weeks of profit, more than \$5,000, was used to help his neighbor, a Farmington Junior High School student, who suffers from a meningioma brain tumor.

"Almost a year ago, Alyssa, my 12-year-old neighbor was diagnosed with a brain tumor," Bostick said.

Through her many surgeries and treatments she's kept a positive attitude and outlook, he said.

"The manner in which she's faced such a terrifying thing has been an inspiration to me personally," Bostick said. "This is my way of giving back in a small way."

Bostick, a graduate of the University of Utah and Utah State University, where he received his master's, now resides in Davis County.

He has worked as an elementary school teacher and junior high school counselor and is currently mentoring teachers for Western Governors University.

He and his wife JulieAnn recently adopted a baby boy which, he said, "is the best thing since slice bread!"

"Huber Hill and the Dead Man's Treasure" is the first book of a trilogy. The second title, "Huber Hill and the Brotherhood of Coronado," will be released in fall 2012 by Cedar Fort Inc.

Bostick believes that everyone has a unique story to tell.

"Don't be afraid to share it with others," he said.

To watch a short film concerning the book, play games inspired by the book, or get more information go to the website www.deadmanstreasure.com.

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A14

Wednesday, November 28, 2012

Vernal Express

Author addresses addiction to help sow seeds of recovery

By **MARY BERNARD**
Express Writer

Catherine Yack's latest book on addiction, "Sowing the Seeds of Recovery," is a revealing self-portrait about forgiveness and healing.

She begins by retelling the story of her life from drug and alcohol addiction to recovery. It's a life drawn from unhealthy childhood chaos to spiritual balance in adulthood.

Yack uses her story in "Sowing the Seeds of Recovery" as an inspiration for others.

"I knew deep down inside, I knew I was supposed to help people," said Yack.

It's a compelling story that will have enormous impact on the reader. Yack spent years battling through recovery after recovery, struggling with the bitterness that held her in the grip of addiction.

"Something happened to me, the anger flared up. I realized how much I was capable of allowing that anger to build up inside," Yack said.

never given up on her and together they helped each other through a spiritual reawakening.

Yack writes about spiritual balance citing "many reasons why it is so important that we allow God to search our innermost beings to be sure we don't allow any darkness to live within us. The two are incompatible." Realizing the conflict within she said she turned to her creator to develop the seeds of solace.

She calls her approach "a pathway" for the affected, adding "Sowing the Seeds of Recovery" is not just a book about addiction but a road map for anyone to recover from the pains of life.

"This book has something for everyone to learn how to cope with hurts and be healed without further trauma," she said.

Catherine Yack and her husband Gaylon are ministers serving at the Open Arms Community Church in Vernal.

Yack is the author of two other recovery books: "An-



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Local author Catherine Yack tackles addiction issues.

the Fish."

Yack will be signing copies of her latest book "Sowing the Seeds of Recovery" at the Uintah County Library on Nov. 30 from noon until 6 p.m.

"Sowing the Seeds of Recovery" is available online through barnesandnoble.com or amazon.com.

It is also available at IGA, Bittercreek Books, and the 7-11 Ranch Restaurant in Vernal. In Roosevelt, Yack's book is available at IGA.

Author to discuss book on early Basin settlers

By MARY BERNARD
Vernal Express

"On a dusty afternoon, Nov. 9, 1878, the wagon caravan of emigrants from Heber, Parley's Park and communities west emerged from Dodds' Twist and rolled along toward the gap that beckoned them a mile or so north of today's "U" mountain. The land of their new home — their hoped-for place in Ashley's Fork — quickly erupted into view."

writes author LaMond Tullis, beginning the story of the Henry family in the Uintah Basin.

To hear more of the story about the Henrys, who were among many early settlers of the Basin, the author will be speaking at Bitter Creek Books in Vernal on Friday from 4-6 p.m. The store has a new location at 87 West Main.

Tullis' book, "Eight Generations of Henrys and the Settlement of Utah's Uintah Basin," published by Piñon Hills

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Vernal Express
July 28, 2010

By **DEBORAH TRACY**
Vernal Express

A river trip that began below Flaming Gorge Dam in 1975 kindled a passion for the Green River in Roy Webb. He describes his latest book, "Lost Canyons of the Green River," as a guidebook for a river you can no longer run.

Webb, a resident of Salt Lake City, was in Vernal Thursday. His presentation at the Uintah County Library was part of the 15th annual Utah Humanities Book Festival.

The dam at Flaming Gorge creates electricity, but in damming the river a portion of history was covered by the rising waters. Webb explained why he felt compelled to compile the history of the Green River.

"I wrote it because as I

have written about rivers and studied them, I noticed there was a lot written about Glen Canyon Dam," he said. "There are shelves of documents and films and all kinds of things about Glen Canyon, but that never happened with Flaming Gorge."

Both dams were started in 1956 and finished in 1963. The symbolic switch which turned on the generators at the dam was flipped in Salt Lake City by President John F. Kennedy just two weeks before his assassination.

Webb's work was helped along when he received a Wilbur R. Jacobs Fellowship at the Huntington Library in San Marino, Calif., to work in the Otis Martson collection of river-running history. "I spent a month there going through everything he had

about the Green and quite a bit of the book comes out of that."

That book work was combined with the people he has met that were connected with the river, people whose lives were affected by the dam at Flaming Gorge.

"There was a real diaspora of people who lived in the area, and all the ranches that had to be moved or flooded or burned," Webb said.

Webb admits to a sort of nostalgia for an area he never had the chance to visit before it was irrevocably changed. "I would have loved to have seen it," he said. That spurred his decision to want to collect as much as he could. "We've got ten hundreds and hundreds of photographs and quite a few films and oral histories, maps and books - everything

we can find about it to create an archive so that people like myself who have never had the opportunity to see it, at least they will be able to do research on it."

Webb is a multimedia archivist at the J. Willard Marriott Library at the University of Utah, where he is establishing the collection.

He has heard fascinating stories, and his book and presentation touched on high points, including stories about Linwood, a town that disappeared beneath the rising waters of the Green. Before the river was dammed, the ranches and homes had to be destroyed, usually by fire, so over time they wouldn't just pop up into the middle of the resulting lake.

Webb shared stories of the man who had to tell his own father the ranch he tended and had longed called home had to be burned because the waters would soon come. He shared about a woman who, after hearing her home would have to be relocated, herself burned the entire structure to the ground, with all her possessions still inside.

The rapids on the river had inspired, and terrified, some would-be river-runners, including John Wesley Powell, who wrote what Webb called a rather breathless description of Horse Canyon. Legends grew around Ashley Falls and the Green River Suck, a rapid that resulted from the flood each spring. "All that water trying to get into

Flaming Gorge would create whirlpools, swirls and real turbulence," Webb explained. He heard about this from a woman whose family had ranches in the area. When they wanted to get the cattle

who was there."

Drowned in the rising flood were the tales of mountain

men, such as the hermit of Red Canyon who lived in a hole, and throngs of outlaws who found the isolated area

activities throughout October, which is National Book Month.

Mariah Cuch of Lapoint has been on the board of directors for the Humanities Council for five years. She



DEBORAH TRACY, VERNAL EXPRESS

Roy Webb of Salt Lake City was at the Uintah County Library in Vernal for a presentation based on his book, "Lost Canyons of the Green River. The Thursday night presentation was part of the 15th annual Utah Humanities Book Festival.

Author pens tales about lost canyons of the Green

Authors to discuss Nine Mile Canyon treasures

Utah's Nine Mile Canyon is an undisputed national treasure where the prehistoric rock art, history and archaeology draws tens of thousands of visitors from all over the world.

Oil and gas development, vandalism and unintentional destruction by visitors increasingly threaten the astonishing archaeology and history of the canyon, according to authors Jerry D. Spangler and Donna Kemp Spangler.

In the Nine Mile area, archaeologists estimate there are 10,000 sites within the canyon corridor, 90 per cent of them not yet discovered.

The Spanglers recently authored and released "Horned Snakes and Axle Grease: A Roadside Guide to the Archaeology, History and Rock Art of Nine Mile Canyon."

The husband and wife team will attend a book signing and discussion of the remarkable treasures of the canyon Saturday, March 13, at 2 p.m. at Bitter Creek Books, 684 West Main in Vernal.

The discussion will include a slide show of rarely seen archaeological and rock art sites from portions of the canyon not accessible to the general public, and a glimpse into recent research elsewhere in the Book Cliffs.

"For more than 100 years, the amazing gallery that is Nine Mile Canyon, has fascinated everyone who has ever ventured there," says Jerry Spangler, whose research there over the past 15 years provided the foundation for the book. "But that fascination has also led many to vandalize, to loot artifacts and to leave their own names scrawled over rock art hundreds of years old."

To this, he adds the observation that now he sees a threat of oil and gas development.

What do Americans stand to lose in Nine Mile Canyon?

"Horned Snakes and Axle Grease" offers unprecedented insight to the



Donna and Jerry D. Spangler have combined efforts in presenting the prehistory of the northern Colorado Plateau in their book, "Horned Snakes and Axle Grease."

treasures of Nine Mile Canyon, and both believe the best way to preserve the past for the future is through education.

Independent book stores throughout Utah are reporting a phenomenal public response to "Horned Snakes and Axle Grease" during its first month of release. Several book stores report the book to be the top paperback seller during the holiday season.

"Horned Snakes and Axle Grease" has also earned critical praise for its reader-friendly interpretation of Utah's prehistoric past and it's practical guide to enjoying and preserving cultural resources. Umiah Publishing, who published

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Basin native writes fantasy set in Utah

By **BRITTANY WILKERSON**
Vernal Express

I grew up in the city and I knew there was a good reason why I moved to Roosevelt, because evil lurks in the city! Nightwalkers, Transients, Vampires ... I'm lucky I escaped with my life and my soul - intact. I always knew it. I just didn't have the proof I needed

until I read "Fire Light" by J. Abram Barneck.

"Fire Light," the first book in the "Trinity of Mind" series, is

set in West Jordan. Jake, who is a Jeek, part jock and park geek, knows there is something different about him but he just wants to be normal, graduate high school and move out as soon as possible. Instead he discovers that he is one of the last living druids and someone is out to wipe out every last one, including him! Now he is on the run for not only his life but for

the lives of everyone he loves.

Barneck is clearly a fantasy fan as evidenced by the many references to popular fantasy novels that are seen throughout "Fire Light." But instead of making the book feel like it was trying way too hard to keep up with the fantasy Joneses, it feels more like Barneck is just having a little fun with it. Yes, there are a few elements that are very relatable to other stories but there is also originality to the story.

What I enjoyed most about the book was that it took place very close to my old stomping grounds. I knew exactly where the characters were throughout the entire book.

After researching other places Barneck decided, "I wanted to write the story in a place I know. Plus no other fantasy books take place in Utah." And if you keep reading the series

Barneck says that he is "fairly certain" that the characters will find themselves in the Basin eventually.

Barneck confessed that he got the idea for his story from playing computer games. "I grew up playing computer games, and in a lot of the computer games you can be a mage or a wizard and they always have the magic stuff you can do and the most common one was the magic missile. So I grew up playing games casting magic missiles and I wanted to write a book where a person could cast a magic missile."

"Fire Light" is a young adult novel but may not be appropriate for younger ages. For your convenience, Barneck has provided parental guidance section on his website detailing the contents. He rates the book as PG-13 with "intense



action and fighting scenes, with a balance of sexual tension/romance."

Barneck grew up just north of Roosevelt, where he attended Union High School. He now lives in West Jordan, with his wife and two boys. He has a degree in creative writing and worked with Leading Edge for three years.

"Fire Light" is Barneck's first book and was released August of this year. He is currently working on the second book of the "Trinity of Mind" series which is to be a four-book series.

"Fire Light" is currently available for the Kindle on

Amazon.com and is available in all formats by the publisher. For those who like a good ol' f in your hands, available to ord

BW
REVIEWS

seum, 238 E. 200 S. in Vernal, weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. from now through May 20.

Dance Recital

24/7 Dance Company in Duchesne will be hold its first year-end recital on May 23 at Duchesne High School in the old gym. The recital begins at 7 p.m.

Basin settler's story earns author honors

The story of a Uintah Basin settler has won its author an Evans Handcart Award.

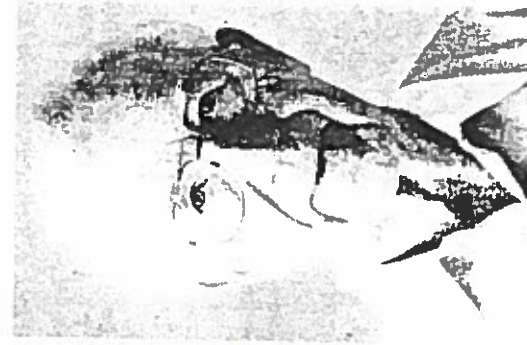
Utah State University's Mountain West Center for Regional Studies presents the award annually.

William B. Smart received the Handcart Award for "Mormonism's Last Colonizer: The Life and Times of William H. Smart." The book tells the story of William H. Smart, who moved to the Basin and developed it as one of the last settlement areas in Utah, displacing the Ute Indians in the process.

The \$2,500 Handcart Award, established in 1996, is given each year to a biography of merit, often by an author who is not an academic historian, who contributes to an understanding of the Mormon-settled West.

"Carefully assembled, well-written, and ably documented, this will appeal to anyone intrigued by the slow forging of Deseret, and especially so to those curious about how the Utah antipodes were occupied and settled," the Evans judges wrote about Smart's book.

"Overall, this biography is not only thorough and balanced but also quite compelling. It is footnoted and depends for its analysis on the right sources



William B. Smart

More information will be available on these events at a later date.

Uintah Basin Standard

They recalled the Lil' Mings - a hip-hop dance crew comprised of Uintah High School students - and they're causing quite an uproar.

"Everything they know they taught themselves," said Barbara Piner, owner of Piner Studio. "They come and practice every morning and they all go to school and have jobs. This is what I would want my boys to be doing in high school."

The idea for the group sprang from the mind of Jason de los Santos. He wanted to do something for the Uintah High talent show and decided to get a group of kids together and perform a hip-hop routine.

"There were 12 at the first, but some of them quit and some of them moved and some of them couldn't handle it," de los Santos said.

Now the crew is down to six members: de los Santos, Brandon Bainbridge, Jarwick de los Santos, Brook Eden, Leming Lin, and Garrett Bruch. Working around school and work schedules, they practice at least once a day and sometimes more.

The Mings' biggest challenge was finding a place to rehearse. At first they would practice in the school gym until they were kicked out. Once they

started practicing in garages. "We are so grateful for Barbara (Piner)," Bruch said. "We owe a lot to her for letting us practice in her studio."

To show their appreciation, the teens stay after practice and clean the dance studio.

The main inspiration for the crew's style and appearance came from the season one winners of the reality TV show "America's Best Dance Crew" - the JabbaWockeez. Like the JabbaWockeez, the Mings wear white masks and white gloves to hide their faces and enhance their moves.

The Mings' style ranges from "ticking" to "old school" hip-hop, and their moves cover everything between head slides to moonwalking on their knees. Each dancer has his own unique style and when melded together through choreography it creates a jaw-dropping routine.

"I decided to join because I basically suck at sports," Eden stated. "And because I saw a guy dance one time and I thought it was pretty cool."

When asked how he learned to break dance Bainbridge

DYE'N 2

Phone # 435-722-0358

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CALENDAR PICK UP FOR ALL CLASSES WILL

Auditions

Monday, May 18th BALLET:

Ages 4-6 3:30 - 4:30

7-11 4:30 - 5:30

12+ 5:30 - 7:30

Tuesday, May 19th HIP HOP/ZA:

Ages 4-6 3:30 - 4:30

7-11 4:30 - 5:30

12+ 5:30 - 7:30

~D~

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what dieting
won't.

26, DEC 2007

Vernal Express

Basin woman's memoir gives insight into human behavior

By **LUCY McMINN**
Guest Writer

Rose Miller has learned a lot about human nature in the 30 years she spent working in the Uintah Basin as a social worker for the Utah Division of Child and Family Services.

She's watched as families learned to band together in a tragedy or fall apart when the going got tough. She's both moved to discover that some people have the courage to dig deep in a moment of crisis and unearth values like courage and forgiveness, and horrified to witness first-hand the darker side of human nature that, if unchecked, can destroy everything that's really important.

Through all her years of close observation, Miller has learned some important lessons that she thinks parents and teens everywhere can benefit from. These lessons are collected in her recently-published book, "Daddy Hold Me, I'm Scared."

"I have so many memories of so many families and kids and so many tears and laughs," Miller said. "I thought that while I still have my memory, I ought to sit and write down all of these experiences. This book is a record of my 30 years with teenagers and everything they taught me."

Among other things, Miller's book contains a collection of letters written by clients and families that detail their perception of the counseling process and their struggle to come to grips with various problems.

problem teens' face, including sexual, physical and substance abuse. Miller explores case studies of actual clients she worked with. Though each case study is based on an actual experience, the names of clients have been changed for their privacy and protection.

Those who know Miller and her wonderful sense of humor won't be surprised that the original title of her book was, "But I Can't Be Pregnant, I Still Have Acne!" After consultation though, Miller decided to change the title based on a particularly poignant case study she shares in a chapter about the need to look behind the emotion of anger and respond instead to the deeper emotions that people are really feeling.

"I was working with a 15-year-old girl who was pregnant and afraid to tell her parents about it. I told her, 'It will be better if they hear it from you,'" Miller said. "She was scared about how her dad would react, and sure enough, when she told him, he went through the roof."

"I could feel her tensing up, so I patted her on the knee. She stood up and said, 'I know I've hurt you and disappointed you, but Daddy, hold me, I'm scared,'" Miller said. "This big burly man stopped yelling mid-sentence, started crying, and then gave his daughter a hug."

With a balance of humor and gravity, Miller attempts to provide a little something for everyone. One chapter is written specifically for teens with the intent to help them better

and improve their relationship. Another chapter is written specifically for parents. In this chapter, Miller shares tips she has learned over the years that she believes will help parents raise teenagers who will one day be responsible, capable members of society.

"One of the most important things parents must do is teach responsibility," Miller said. "We're too quick to want to enable and rescue, but as difficult as it is we have to allow our children to suffer the consequences of their actions. If we let them fall flat on their face, they are going to learn from that. But if we keep rescuing them, we turn them into invalids."

Miller also stresses the need to reinforce a positive sense of self-esteem and take the time to communicate and process with teenagers the causes and effects of their bad decisions.

"Despite the fact that parents do their best, they can't always save their kids," Miller said. "Some feel guilty, and I always tell them they have to quit 'shouldering' it on themselves. Even if you do everything you can and your child continues to make bad choices, your self-esteem as a parent should still be intact and your love for your child should still be intact. You have to let go of the guilt."

Miller has retired from her career as a social worker. Her book is the result of a lifetime of experience and years of work. It can be purchased by contacting her directly, at Stewart's Marketplace in Roosevelt or

Lawson, Nathaniel Searle, Emily Lemon, Joe Jessup, Bethany Wiggins, Jessica Prather, Myke Hall, and Nikki Kitchen, RanDee

kids, and fantasies.”

For more information about the event and authors visit Uintah Basin's World of Words Facebook page.

County Commission changes ordinance

BY STAFF REPORTS

The Uintah County Commissioners unanimously approved an ordinance April 23, that will now change oil refinery conditional use permits on I-2 Industrial Zones to a permitted use.

The amendment is expected to pave the way for Uintah Advantage to build

an Upgrader near Pelican Lake.

The company discussed briefly with the commission about the upcoming project after the ordinance was amended, stating that construction is likely to begin in 2019 and that it would be a 30-month construction project.

The ordinance change was spurred by Uintah Advantage, who were represented by Chief Executive Officer Kyle McKay at the meeting.

“We had been working under a permitted use,” McKay said. “When it becomes a conditional use, our financing, which we are right at the front end of... it becomes more difficult. It becomes a red flag. We want to move forward and the project is moving forward. That’s the good news that we have to report. We don’t want anything to slow it down. I think it would help the community if we were able to move forward and speed this thing up.”

McKay stated that the company right now is in the infancy of their financing efforts for the project, which will be a loan and equity.

“We hope to be done with all of that by the end of the year,” McKay said. It might dribble over into the next year (2019) and then we can start the construction in earnest. It’s about a 30-month construction project.”

VERNAL Express

(USPS 0892-1091) Periodical postage paid at Vernal, Utah. Published weekly at 60 East 100 North, Vernal, UT 84078

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to the Vernal Express at 60 East 100 North, Vernal, UT 84078

GENERAL MANAGER: Derek Hopper
MANAGING EDITOR: Ryan Collins
OFFICE MANAGER: Carlene Slaugh
RECEPTIONIST: Kaylene Ellis
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OFFICE HOURS:

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday
8:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday.

DEADLINES:

Legal Notices Thursday at 4:30 p.m.
Classifieds, Thursday at 5 p.m.
Display Advertising Friday at 10 a.m.
Editorial Content Friday at 12 p.m.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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ess May 1, 2018

Emerging Duchesne author held signing

By Liberty Montague
Vernal Express

Vicena Poulson of Duchesne always wanted to write a children's story, but said after she had kids her story ideas got pushed back so she could take care of her family. Six kids later she finally used a young women's project to write down her ideas into book form.

Poulson has had the chance to go to Europe and said she was inspired to write a medieval romance, which she wasn't expecting anyone, even family to read.

"I wrote it for fun and my kids found it on my computer and ratted it out to my husband," Poulson said.

Poulson said her husband, Alan, was afraid to read it and not like it because it was a medieval romance, but after he read the first chapter he was excited to read the rest

and read the entirety of the book the following day.

"He said I needed to get it published," Poulson said.

Poulson's book, "Cloaked in Secrets" is a young adult novel about a princess who overhears her parents talking about her betrothal. The princess runs away to find the knight of her dreams.

"I love to read romance," Poulson said. "I believe in happily ever after and I like clean romances, and I like to write clean romance because I don't have to worry about what they're reading."

"Cloaked in Secrets" is available at BitterCreek Books in Vernal and Al's Foodtown in Duchesne.

BitterCreek Books held a book signing for Poulson on March 31.

Poulson said she was excited to talk to people about her book.

The Making of a superhero—father and daughter duo launch comic Sugar Glider featuring X Ambassadors

BY RYAN COLLINS
rcollins@ubmedia.biz

For twelve-year-old Shelby Webb, Sat. April 28, marked her entrance into the world of being a professional comic book author.

A mother of a seven-year-old girl tells Shelby that her daughter has dreams of creating a comic someday. Shelby is signing a copy of Sugar Glider for the young girl at the Uintah County Library during the hometown launch party for Sugar Glider. Shelby smiles and looks at the girl, telling her if she keeps working hard, someday she may be on the other side of the table.

The moment has come full circle from a year ago when Shelby was being bullied and her father's best friend had just committed suicide.

A news clip plays while eager friends, family and fans wait in line to get a copy of Sugar Glider. Shelby explains during the interview this is a comic with a cause. She wants it to help people who are struggling with mental illness, suicidal thoughts, drug addiction and many others.

Shelbi says the comic helps people who are going through those kind of struggles find a way to heal.

Shelbi and her father Jason have come a long way together over the course of the past year and have been able to turn negative experiences into something

positive.

"Shelbi had experienced bullying in school and the previous year I had lost my best friend," Jason recalled. "He was kind of the uncle of the family."

The father and daughter talked together about creating a superhero character around this time. A character that had the strength to combat some of the things they were facing.

That's when they realized that this idea was something that could start to take root. That was also when mom got involved.

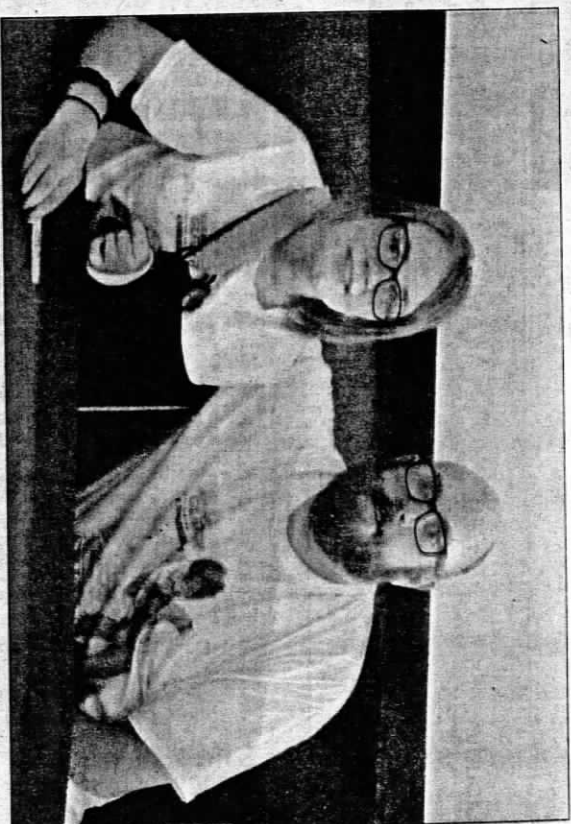
"Mom got involved," Jason said of his wife Maggie coming into the project. "She kind of threw in, if we are going to do this, why don't we talk about the problems that teenagers face."

The father and daughter duo began to meticulously craft a protagonist that personified the struggles that teenagers face in one way or another.

Nearly one year later, Shelby and Jason are launching the brainchild they created in Vernal with another launch party scheduled in Salt Lake City on May 12. Jordyn McKenzie the superhero has been born, and there's no stopping her now.

With the launch of the first comic, the father and daughter already have their eyes on the next release, which is scheduled to come out in August.

There was plenty of help along



RYAN COLLINS, UBMEDIA.BIZ

Shelby Webb (left) and Jason Webb (right) pose for a picture during the Sugar Glider launch party at the Uintah County Library April 28. The father and daughter duo were greeted with strong support from the community with lines of fans and friends waiting to eagerly get their hands on a copy.

the way and it never hurts if you can bring a famous rock band in on the project like X Ambassadors, who the father and daughter will get a chance to meet on May 4, when the band's tour comes to Salt Lake City.

"We've been talking with their manager over the phone and through emails," Jason said. "They invited us to come to their concert and get a couple of the comic books signed."

Jason originally tracked the band's manager down via social media and got them to commit to the project. The band plays a

prominent role in the comic as they did at the launch party in Vernal.

If the initial launch party in Vernal was a indication of what the father and daughter duo can expect from the Salt Lake City launch party, Shelby and Jason can expect to continue signing more copies of Sugar Glider at super speed.

For more information about the comic Sugar Glider and launch party information, you can visit glidercomic.com or visit their Facebook page at facebook.com/sugarglidercomic.com.

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Local father and daughter duo launch comic book series

BY STAFF REPORTS

Vernal Middle School student Shelbi Webb teams up with her father Jason Webb in her comic book writing debut with Sugar Glider featuring X Ambassadors this May. Sugar Glider featuring X Ambassadors is the inaugural four-part series that introduces you to Jordyn McKenzie, a high school track & field star in Blackbirch, California. Blackbirch is an unassuming coastal town with beachfront shoppes and close access to the mountains. One Spring day the world of Blackbirch and its youth are turned upside-down when a meteor shower passes close-by and one crashes to earth in the mountains. Something within the meteors has affected the youth and given them strange new abilities unlocked by their emotional and physical states.

Sugar Glider (A comic with a cause) shows it's true intent. Jordyn, our heroine, is right at 'ground zero' when the meteorite hits the ground. The meteorite amplifies Jordyn's natural athletic abilities allowing her to run at superspeed, increasing metabolism and escalating her healing; but Jordyn's heart and empathy are affected the most. Jordyn feels an overwhelming drive to help others. Youth in Blackbirch weren't quite as fortunate as Jordyn; adolescents such as Lauren Yeung were touched by the meteor shower in a different way. It altered her frame of mind and body which gave Lauren superhuman abilities and destructive capabilities based on emotional feelings in regards to the way

she looks. Sugar Glider featuring X Ambassadors will include the popular band in this 4-part story arc. Just like in the Scooby-Doo cartoons of the past, the X Ambassadors will assist Jordyn (Sugar Glider) in identifying the struggles facing our antagonist, Lauren, and finding a way to help her.

Shelbi has already experienced her share of being a victim of bullying and has lost family members and friends to suicide. Sugar Glider featuring X Ambassadors is her attempt to help youth identify their own struggles and put a voice to the issues while assisting them to heal or find an outlet to do so. Teaming up with X Ambassadors to help get the word out along with other organizations such as Girls Ruler, Tyler Robinson Foundation and Change4Love, Shelbi's ambition is to make a small difference in the world and hopefully create change in how adolescent issues are perceived and dealt with.

Sugar Gliders featuring X Ambassadors will officially launch on May 12 at an exclusive Launch Party at The Club and Café at 50 West in Salt Lake City from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Advertising for the Launch Party will begin on April 14th on X96 in the Salt Lake area. There will be a hometown launch on April 28 from 2 to 5:00 p.m. at the Uintah County Library - Vernal. More information about tickets to the LAUNCH PARTY, purchasing the comic book as well as other upcoming events for Sugar Glider go to <https://glidercomix.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/SugarGliderComic/>.

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Aug 28, 2013

Get 'Stung' with this entertaining book

By **BRITANNY WILKERSON**
Vernal Express

The thought of a bee buzzing around my head makes me want to run around flailing my arms and screaming like a little girl. Every summer I wish that all the bees in my yard would die. I have no use for them and they are not my friends! Well, that's what I thought until I read "Stung" by Bethany Wiggins, and then I kind of had a small change of heart. But don't tell the bees, I still don't like them.

"Stung" takes place in a world where the bee population is almost extinct. Things get worse when the government produces a cure that ends up turning half the population into mindless, violent animals. Fiona wakes up in the middle of this world that the cure has destroyed, and she can't remember how it got that way. She has the mark on her hand that means that she should be a mindless beast, but she's not, and she needs to find out why.

The beginning of this book, right from the first page, is amazing! It grabs you and draws you in and you have to find out what is going on. Why can't

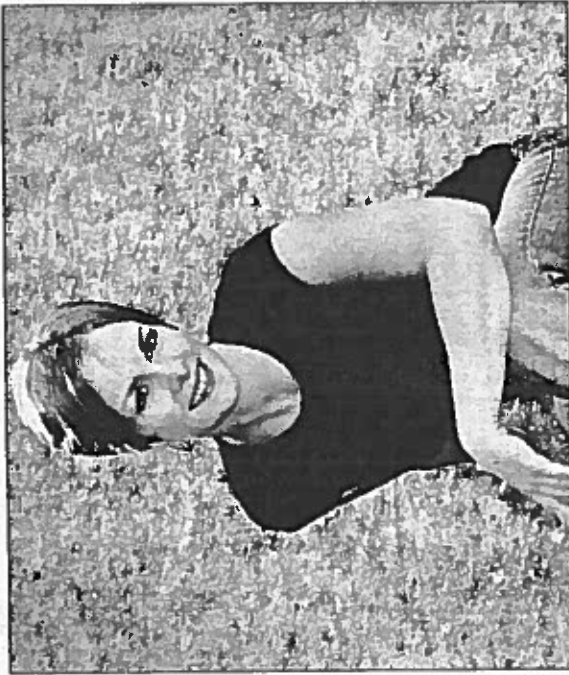
Fiona remember anything, why does she have the mark, why is she normal, what is going to happen?

And you won't be disappointed; all of these questions will be answered.

Wiggins answers them for you in such a way that will definitely keep you reading. I can't tell you much, or anything at all for that matter, but for those of you who need a little romance in your reading life, you won't be disappointed either.

If you enjoy a good dystopian story then you will definitely be glad that you read "Stung."

The idea for "Stung" was "initially from a nightmare." Wiggins said. "Chapter one was a nightmare I had. That was the same time the swine flu was out and I thought to myself 'What if they were giving us a vaccine that changed us?'



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Bethany Wiggins

They were rushing it so fast. Also I got an article about the disappearing honey bees and I thought, 'why doesn't anyone know about the honey bees that are dying off in masses?' Those three things are where the story came from."

"Stung" is the first book in a trilogy. The second book, "Cured," will be released in March 2014. Wiggins' first published novel was "Shifting," released in September 2011.

You can expect to see more books from Wiggins after the release of the "Stung" trilogy, and in a

variety of genres. So if you are like Wiggins and "get bored by the same thing all the time," you will have something different to look forward to.

To her readers Wiggins would say, "Life is too short to always be plugged into electronics. So embrace the written word and real life and you'll learn more about life."

Wiggins' lives in Vernal with her husband and kids.

"Stung" can be purchased online at Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com and at Bloomsbury publishing.

monaghan

cigarettes

"His cigarette was rolled now & I saw him seal the paper with his tongue. A deft twist with his right hand crimped the end so the tobacco flakes would not fall out the open end.

cigarette

"where he watched us as he shook tobacco from a Bull Durham sack into a cigarette paper for rolling.

Chew

"cutting a chew from the plug of Horseshoe tobacco he carried in his hip pocket.

terms

Arm & Hammer Soda (called "sody")
coffee "java"

"build biscuits" expression for get dinner

"put the pot on the fire & when she boils the java will turn over. Take it off add a cup of cold water to settle the grounds."

service berry - pronounced sarvice-
berry in the west

1908

Monaghan referred to himself as a tenderfoot schoolboy from Philadelphia who had never done any ~~work~~ physical work in his the 17 years he had been alive.

He got a job as brakeman on a freight wagon from Rifle to Meeker. The boy had ^{been} hired at four bits a day to tend a brake on the trail wagon.

The only West the boy knew was in books. He could repeat whole paragraphs from many books.

I was that 17-year-old boy.
I wanted to be a part of the West
I had read about

summer vacation

mother secured a return ticket in his ~~for~~ hip pocket of his trousers

"I was determined to go places & see the Wild West, but it never occurred to me that before school started in the fall I would camp with the West's last band of renegade Indians, disgruntled Utes being brought back to their reservation by the United States Army. They had halted the new reservation assigned them after the Meeker Massacre, hoping to join the Sioux up at Wounded Knee.

Jim Monaghan

page Skull Creek Jones

"At one stretch of road where the ruts were shallow we met a south-bound freighter with empty wagons. The boss ~~opened~~ stopped our team to chat. The strange driver had a face speckled with black dots like a guinea. His nose was long & sharp over a receding chin that gave him the look of a snipe or shore bird. The boss asked him what which ruts ahead were best to take.

"Then furthest to the east is best," the man replied, pushing his hat back on that birdlike head; I noticed that his ears were oddly crumpled.

The boss thanked him. We parted, each driving away under the big sky, but I noticed that our boss took the ruts farthest west, instead of east. We camped that night on the flat above a deep gulch where there was water. I asked why we hadn't taken the more easterly ruts recommended by the freighter.

Doc gave me a Specimen Jones look and, taking a deep draught on his cigarette, replied, "That man is Skull-Creek Jones. Even his name will lie, and steal too,

when it gets a chance." Dee paused for
a snake to come out through his nose
& mouth. Then he continued, "If we
got stuck it wouldn't earn Skully a
thin dime, but it wouldn't cost him
nuthin's nuther. You gotta watch
them freighters. Did you see his ears?
I dun know f'r sartin but I hear
tell the K Ranch riders kitched
Skully alterin' brands. They throwed
and earmarked him like a calf; crop
& split on the right, a swallfork on
the left. Skully couldn't had the law
on 'em f'r that, but he assent. If
he did, they'd a jailed ~~him f'r that~~
~~but~~ him f'r rustling."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Wes Bruckner works on an illustration for a children's book being written by his wife, Tai. The couple recently had their first work "Lemon Path Encounter" published.

Lapoint couple has fairy tale published

By ViAnn Prestwich
Uintah Basin Standard

Two young horses and a deceptive deer are characters in a new children's book written by Lapoint resident, Tai Bruckner, and illustrated by her husband, Wes Bruckner.

The magical tale has been published by PublishAmerica and is titled "Lemon Path Encounter."

Vernal, she struggles to find time to put all her ideas down on paper.

"My stepdaughter had to do a fairy tale in school," Bruckner said about the youngster who was only a kindergartner when she wrote what would eventually be expanded into a book. "So I took her idea and added to it."

In the story, two young horses, Lyla and Clarence,

They promise to never talk to strangers.

Wes Bruckner was not only supportive of his wife's writing, but added his artistic talent to make the work a real joint venture for the couple.

The book isn't the last one that Tai Bruckner plans to write. She is working on a young adult novel about a 17-year-old girl who goes back in time and spends a summer

Launch party planned for local author who wrote 'St

BY LIBERTY BEST
lbest@ubmedia.biz

After the infectious reading spree of Bethany Wiggins fans devoured the words within her novel "Stung," she took the time to write up the rest of the story in the sequel, "Cured."

"My husband and I have always toyed with the idea of becoming beekeepers, and after reading Stung, we knew it was something we had to do," Melinda Barlow at Uintah County Library said.

Wiggins said Barlow was not the only one she knows was inspired to become beekeepers after reading Stung, and she knows even more people who told her Stung inspired them to get food storage underway.

Many readers are saying Cured is well-written as well as being more intense than Stung.

Meggan Boren, friend and fan of Wiggins, said, "Cured is a great book. It's adventure and romance and everything I would ever want in a book."

Wiggins took time off from writing in order to



LIBERTY BEST, VERNAL EXPRESS

Bethany Wiggins, Vernal author, will be holding a launch party for her new book, Cured, on March 4 at 7 p.m. at the Uintah County Library

care for her newborn baby, but assures readers she has more ideas brewing and

plans to continue with her writing career.

"I could write a third

book to go with Stung and Cured, but I also wrote it in a way I can end the series

with Cured," Wiggins said. Cured is Wiggins' second published young adult novel. Even though it is known through English-speaking readers, her gripping story still remains a local town girl from everyone knows.

"I could write a third book to go with Stung and Cured, but I also wrote it in a way I can end the series with Cured," Wiggins said.

"It's nice to hear from Australia"



Vernal Express

Brown tells story of rescuing children from hum



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Local author, Lincoln Brown, tells the story of the fight against human trafficking in his new book, "Go Down Moses."

By BRITTANY WILKERSON
bwilkinson@ubmedia.biz

Few things are more satisfying than finishing a book and feeling inspired,

uplifted or that I have learned something valuable. I love a good story, but I want it to also mean something. Then, even if the story wasn't actually that good, I feel that my investment was worth it. That feeling is more so when the book is for a good cause, as is "Go Down Moses: One NGO's Fight Against Human Trafficking" by Lincoln Brown.

Brown wrote "Go Down Moses" with photos by his wife Ellen. It is a telling of his trip to Cambodia to visit the Rapha House, as well as the human trafficking that takes place there and the good that the Rapha House is doing.

A couple of definitions for you that helped me as I read: NGO means Non-governmental organization

and Brown explains in his book that Rapha "is a Hebrew word which can be translated as 'healing' or 'to heal.'"

Brown tells stories not only about the evil and extent of the human trafficking that takes place in Cambodia, but also tells success stories of the girls that have been helped at the Rapha House.

"Along with the sexual trauma and labor that these girls endure, they are also deprived of an education, proper nutrition and for that matter they are deprived of a childhood," said Brown in "Go Down Moses." At the Rapha House, the girls are provided with safety, food and are taught a skill. When the girls leave the House they are set up with a way

to support themselves.

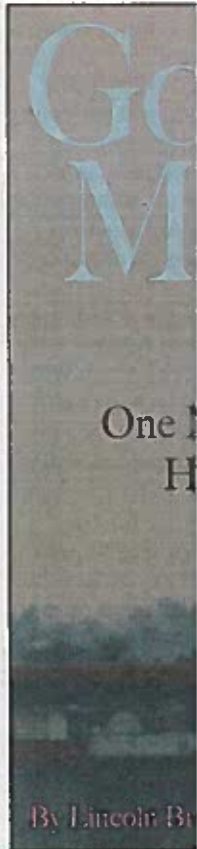
Brown also tells of a wedding he attended of a girl that had been rescued by the Rapha House. Without the help of the Rapha House, that would have never been a possibility for this girl.

"Go Down Moses" is a very small book, I read it in about an hour, but it is well worth the \$2.99 I paid for it and the information I came away with. As well as knowing that money is going to a very good cause.

All proceeds from the book go to the Rapha House. On the Rapha House website under the FAQs section under the question "How much money really goes to projects?" the Rapha House says they are "vigilant to ensure that all the resources that are provided to us are used in a fiscally responsible manner in order to realize the most good. Rapha House is 100 percent dependent on our loyal supporters."

Brown hosts the Lincoln Brown Show on KNEU in Roosevelt.

For more informa-



By Lincoln Brown
 Lincoln Brown's n
 August of 2014. Th

tion about Brown
 the Rapha House
 visit <http://www.brownsow.com>
www.raphahouse.org

Local author walks the path of a Bushido warrior

By **MARY DEWEED**
Express Writer

I was apprehensive about reviewing a book on spiritual guidance, even if the author is a Basin resident. But, "Ancient Secrets of A Christian Warrior: Hidden Disciplines for the Heart" by Catherine Yack is not your average counseling book. Yack has prepared a small but powerful volume of self-rescue.

The first half of the book concerns Yack's own journey of discovery. She discloses that in learning to walk a more spiritual path, she had to become a willing servant of God. It meant that she would have to become more disciplined in her life and her thoughts.

Through religious study, she found that the code of ethics called Bushido, or the way of the Samurai warrior, offered the principles of selfless moral discipline. In fact, the word Samurai itself meant servant. By integrating their ethical principles into her daily life, Yack transformed herself into a Christian warrior.

In the second half of the book, the author provides these steps

of true discipline for any person to achieve the same self-control in their life.

Yack writes, "Some people are afraid of losing their identity ... so, they keep their past alive ... they have a hard time growing because they cannot see beyond their past."

The secret to wisdom, health and spirituality revealed by Yack is a "code of selflessness and self-control." That means changing the habits, or obstacles, that hold us back. Through daily practice of these principles Yack writes, any person can achieve real balance in life.

"Ancient Secrets of a Christian Warrior," published by Pleasant Word Publishing is available at Bitter Creek Books and Davis Jubilee. Yack lives in Roosevelt and maintains a jail ministry for women for the last two years. She also works with the Ladies of the Light-Genesis Process Change Group, which brings together "women helping hurting women to heal" and change. The group meets Tuesdays at the Harvest Fellowship Church, 122 E. Lagoon St., Roosevelt and is open to all.

Vernal Express

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20 Vernal Express Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Local author writes book about ancient Chinese warrior

Parker had always had a questing spirit. It was this spirit that drove him to his biggest discovery — one full of mystery, surprises and legends.



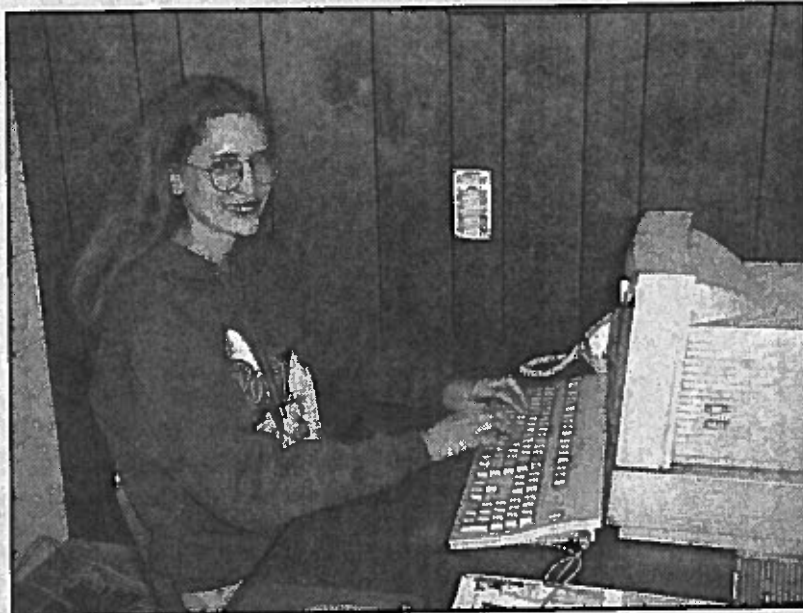
So begins the latest work of book written by a Uintah Basin local author. writer, Anna M. Hanberg.

"LuKan" is an easy read at 160 pages. It is Hanberg's second novel and it definitely will not be her last. It is about an archeologist who discovers the remains of 16th century Chinese warrior and how the warrior comes alive through a mystical connection.

A third Dan Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do, the Chinese culture has been one of the many interests of Hanberg. She said she heard a story about a great Chinese warrior in one of her karate class and that sparked her interest in writing a novel about uncovering the grave of such a person.

She began writing in the second grade, when she was given an assignment to write a short story about Thanksgiving. She wrote about the thanksgiving turkey and how she eventually turned the bird loose.

"My dad said that it was good story and spurred me on to write



Anna H. Hanberg, local author, has written a novel about an ancient Chinese warrior.

more," she said.

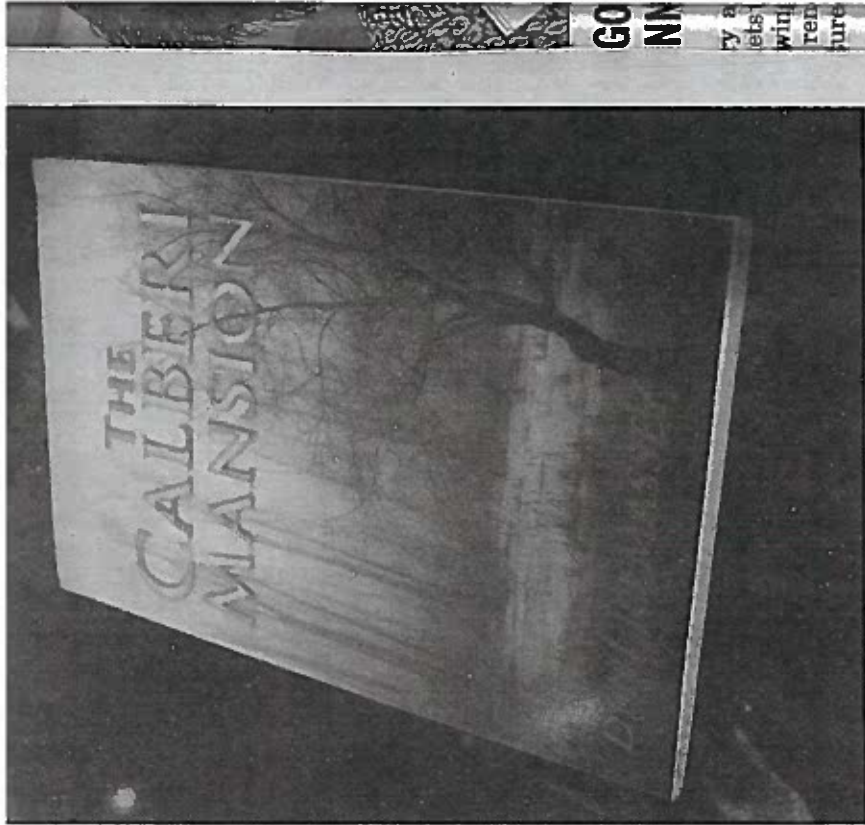
She won several awards for her writing in the seventh grade, but became a nurse. She is a karate instructor in Vernal and in Duchesne county. She would like to write full-time, but until her book start paying the bills she will have to do other things.

"I think most people will enjoy this book," she said. "It's short and has a little bit of everything."

She will be doing a book signing, Saturday, Dec. 22, from 2 p.m. to 6

p.m. at Bitter Creek Books. Her book is available at local bookstores. It is published by Vantage Press, Inc. of New York.

She already has some ideas about another book which will be staged in the Uintah Basin from 1850 to 1915. For people who want to write a book or make a living at writing, her advise is to "just kept after it. Who knows there could be another 'Harry Potter' brewing in the mind of some young writer."



This book "The Calberi Mansion," written by Vernal author Deni Jo Massey, is the first in a four-part series about a family running a bed and breakfast in Canada during the time of the Salem Witch Trials. Massey will be holding a book signing at Bitter Creek Books on Friday.

Local author to hold first ever book signing

By RAYNE BANSBETER
Vernal Express

A local author is set for a book signing this Friday at Bitter Creek Books.

Deni Jo Massey's book, "The Calberi Mansion" is the first of a four-part series based in the Victorian Era (the 1800's) during the Salem Witch Trials.

"(It's) kind of an ongoing saga," she said with the Anna.

"It feels awesome," she said about being a published author. Massey's book, which came out just under two years ago is for sale nationwide at Barnes & Noble, Amazon and iUniverse.

She is also working on a separate book titled "Unsatisfied," about a single girl in the 1970's, who lives in a trailer park with many mysteries surrounding her.

Local author realizes dream of publishing

By STEVE PORG
Utah Basin Standard

At age 13, Margaret Chatwin wasn't happy with the books she could find to read. The solution was to write stories the way she wanted them written.

A Wasatch High School graduate, Chatwin moved to Roosevelt about 11 years ago and has pursued her dream to become a published author.

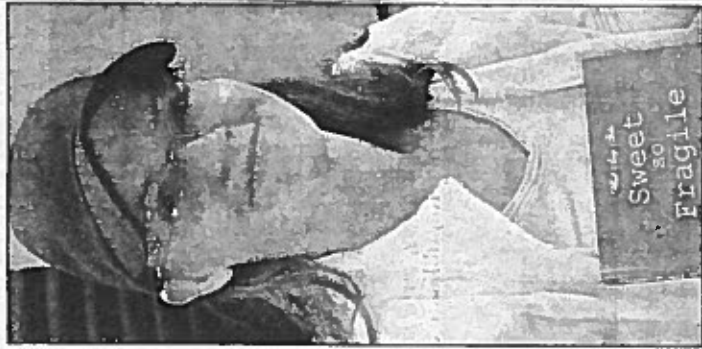
Chatwin has two books published now: "Taking the Fall," a romantic adventure, and "Sweet So Fragile," a family drama.

While both works are fiction, "Sweet So Fragile" is loosely based on real events, some of which she can relate to personally.

"These are books that were written a while ago," Chatwin said. "I revamped them and got them going again and updated them."

Writing in her spare time, Chatwin controls the entire creative process. She writes, edits, and even does the artwork or photography for her covers.

"When ideas come into my head I can write pretty quickly. Both of these books took about 10 days each once I got started,"



Margaret Chatwin

she said.

Chatwin wants to write with appeal to a broad audience, and said she liked the way that S. E. Hinton delivered her stories, such as "The Outsiders."

Both books are available in the local library, but often have a waiting list. Also, copies can be ordered online from Amazon and Lulu.

Chatwin will have a book signing and author appearance at Inspirations in Roosevelt on Saturday Nov. 19 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

"Writing has meant so much to me throughout my life," Chatwin said. "It has been my best friend, my comfort, my way to vent, my therapy, but above all it has given me a voice."

Local author spins spooky tale

By DEBORAH TRACY

Vernal Express

If you long for fiction with a spooky feel, "Summer of Stolen Souls" by local author Veronica Lawson will fill the bill with a unique twist.

Lawson, who spent some time growing up in the Uintah Basin and came back after retirement, has set her tale of an aging Ute medicine man destined to fulfill an ancient legend among some very familiar landscape. The new novel just came out a few weeks ago.

One of the delights of the book is reading descriptions of the local landscape: every day scenes transformed from living color to black and white words on a printed page. One example is this description: "To the east, behind tree-lined farms, Randlett Butte was visible, with its rocky benches peeking up like a dinosaur sunning its back on an ancient riverbed."

The fictional tale of Old Bob, a Ute shaman, is labeled "horror," although Lawson doesn't consider this a comprehensive description of her tale. "I really question whether it should be considered horror. It's a mixture of horror and mythology and fantasy," she said.

Despite some creepy thrills, the book basically is about the never-ending fight between good and evil. "That's real life, you know," Lawson said. "If you have good, you have

Veronica Lawson recently signed copies of her new book, "Summer of Stolen Souls," at Bitter Creek Bookstore in Vernal. This supernatural tale takes place at a number of recognizable sites through the Uintah Basin.



DEBORAH TRACY, VERNAL EXPRESS

inhabit their skin for a while. You might say this is a very nasty version of permanent identity theft.

Lawson said she has had the idea for the novel for a long time.

Being of Blackfoot heritage, Lawson has long been fascinated with skin walkers. The fact that the Utes believe so strongly in them convinced Lawson the Basin was the logical setting for her story.

"Even though this is my take of the skin walkers, I tried to treat the characters and the story with dignity," she explained. One of the main characters, Manny, is a man who grew up at odds

Mountains that is awakening the skin walkers.

Lawson said she has been writing "forever," but it wasn't until she retired from the nuclear weapons field that she had the time to devote to penning a full-length novel. Although her job has always involved writing and communication skills, it was different work from creating a fictional tale.

"I love writing... writing a novel was the most challenging thing I have ever done," she said.

She explained how fiction differs from non-fiction. "You have a storyline, and you get so caught up with the char-

acters, although they will be dealing with a different problem: water babies. This is another Native American legend about some very nasty creatures that prey on people. If you miss the type of story that was once the territory of a younger Stephen King, you might find just the right chill you seek in Lawson's writing.

For more information about are very familiar to anyone who has spent even a short amount of time in the Basin, the characters are often a mix of people she has met through the years with an added unique personality that developed throughout the course of telling the tale. Although it's only been available a few weeks, Lawson said she has been receiving positive feedback about her book. She said she is flattered with the response from teens to adults. The oldest reader she has heard from is 82 years old.

She has a website, a Facebook page and a blog. She has begun sharing some photos of some of the places described in the book.

At local signings, such as the recent one at Bitter Creek Books in Vernal which carries "Summer of Lost Souls," Lawson has included a black feather for use as a bookmark. She said this book is the first in a planned series of "Dark Feather Novels."

She is already at work on the second in a series which will feature the same main characters, although they will be dealing with a different problem: water babies. This is another Native American legend about some very nasty creatures that prey on people.

If you miss the type of story that was once the territory of a younger Stephen King, you might find just the right chill you seek in Lawson's writing. For more information

Local author has first novel published

Julie Flake began her adventures as a storyteller when she was small, making up stories for her eight younger sisters. She also started reading when she was young, and hasn't been able to stop yet.

The two aspects of Flake's interests, have resulted in her having her first novel, "Papa's Gift," published and arriving this month in bookstores statewide.

"Papa's Gift" is not her first published work, Flake has had material printed in the LDS monthly children's magazine, The Children's Friend, since Flake was 19. Her most recent Friend story, "Debbie my friend," appeared in the September issue.

Born in upstate New York, Flake was schooled at home as a child and later attended Brigham Young University where she studied "everything" that interested her, "from folk music to Spanish."

"Papa's Gift" tells of Amelia Green's birthday gift, which was destined to change her life.

Life with Amelia on a Utah farm at the turn of the last century is full of adventures that will keep the reader laughing, and lessons learned that will touch the heart.

Whether Amelia is getting into embarrassing scrapes with her brother Johnny, or feeling hurt when the new girl at school turns



Julie Flake's first novel is now in book stores.

old friends against her, Amelia and her family bring the pages to life with warmth.

Author Julie Flake lives in Vernal with her best friend and husband Benjamin, and their three daughters Mariah, Lucy and Grace.

Flake will be at Garden Gate Bookstore, Dec. 20 at 2 p.m. for a book signing. She will also hold a book signing in January at Bitter Creek Books.

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Wednesday, February 3, 2010

Vernal Express



Glen Mecham: Glen and Diane Mecham hold a copy of Innocent Blood that is just being released to bookstores.

Local authors release new book

PublishAmerica announced this week the delivery of a new book, *Innocent Blood*, that is written by Vernal authors **Glen J. Mecham and Diane Mecham**.

"Soldiers and founding fathers gave their innocent blood for American freedom," stated Glen Mecham. "These courageous efforts are why we titled the book *Innocent Blood*."

Mecham explained that the freedom for which they bled has been masked by greed. And that the search for power and

established laws for equality for special interest groups and foreigners and that this direction was not the true intentions of the founding fathers.

"Americans now are experimenting with every fragment of European socialism, which will only bring division and chaos to America," said Mecham. "If we don't fight for our liberties and freedom now, there will be no liberties or freedom for which to fight."

Glen and Diane Mecham hold

Local rising author readies for book signing Friday

By **LIBERTY MONTAGUE**
Vernal Express

Vernal author Kevin McCree got the idea for his series "The Morpheus Chronicles" from a dream he had about 10 years ago. Since then, he's completed his first book and is working on typing the second into manuscript format.

His novel begins: "This is not a story. Most things you read are stories, fabrications of truth, or fantasy tales. This is history. By history I mean 'his story.'"

McCree's says his novel is fantasy and based around an archangel named Morpheus.

"The time frame (spans) past, present, and future," he said. "Morpheus is building his legacy and making his name in the universe in the first book."

Bitter Creek Books will be hosting a book signing for McCree on Friday, June 17 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

"It's always nice to have local authors who put their thoughts in manuscripts and we need to support it and their efforts," said owner of Bitter Creek Books Allan Mashburn.

Mashburn said McCree's book is "print on demand," which means they print books as people order them from Publish America, and he will have more copies available for the book signing.

"The Morpheus Chronicles: The book of Beginnings" has been in publication for two years, but McCree said for his

next book in the series, he may try getting published a different way.

Publish America printed McCree's first book free of charge which McCree hoped meant they would help him promote the book. But he later found out the publisher expected him to buy the copies himself, and sell them to family, friends and bookstores.

"I did a lot of searching on the internet for publishers and I found out after I'd gotten published that if you want to look at a bigger publishing company you need what's called a literary agent," McCree said.

A literary agent works with authors to help sell their books to publishers as well as helping to organize booking signings. But McCree is a bit wary about an agent, because they have to be looking for a specific genre before they will help sell a book.

Faye Christensen read McCree's book when the first copy came from the publisher. She said she loved his story and still talks about it to her friends. Christensen said she would classify his book as a religious fantasy.

"It's a breath of fresh air," she said. "It's a different aspect of God and sins and heaven and hell. I think it's going to take off."

Christensen runs a book club locally with Katie Tinga and said she is planning to suggest McCree's book when her turn comes.

YOU'VE GOT IT.

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Local writer releases romance novel

Local contemporary romance writer, **Mary Jane Meier**, has published her first book, "Catch a Dream," which was released nationally by NAL, a subsidiary of Penguin Putnam, March 6.

A fan of western scenery and a proponent of the healing power of love, Meier incorporates these attributes into her novel. She moved to Vernal with her husband, Steve, a physician at the Ft. Duchesne Uinta & Ouray Indian Health Clinic.

"Steve loves fishing and hiking on weekends," she said. "I tag along and use the time to think of story ideas. I've come up with most of my plots while enjoying the great outdoors. Of course, Steve is a little disappointed when I'm so absorbed in my imagination that I fail to notice that he's caught a big fish."

Since her elementary school years, Meier has enjoyed creating her own stories. The itch to write never quite went away. While she was raising her three children, the kids always wondered why Mom was so good at "spacing out." Even then, characters resided in her head and begged to be set free.

Now, at last, she's giving those heroes and heroines a life of their own.

She spent her childhood traveling the United States as an Air Force brat, living mostly in Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas and Louisiana. She earned a bachelor of science degree in medical technology from the University of New Orleans and a Texas secondary teaching certificate in English and biology from Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas. She worked as a medical technologist, managed a medical office and raised three children.

Her novel is about Zack Burkhart, who has more than his share of troubles. In the difficult year since his wife's death, his valuable llamas have suffered a series of mysterious accidents, and his small son, Robby, keeps climbing to high, dangerous places to be closer to his mama in heaven. Zack doesn't think things can get much worse

Abandoned by her boyfriend at a Yellowstone backcountry trailhead, without money or ID, Meg finds that being rescued by Zack offers unexpected pleasures. When she goes home with him and accepts a job on his Idaho ranch, she finds solace in his rambunctious animals and young son. But as the livestock "accidents" escalate and Meg's efforts to help Zack backfire, she realizes that her taste of paradise should have come with warning labels. Worst of all, she has fallen for Zack, and he is clearly not ready to reciprocate.

With her own murky past threatening to overtake her, Meg knows she should return to her job designing fantasy computer games in Salt Lake City, leaving Zack to solve his



Mary Jane Meier

own problems. Instead, she throws caution to the wind and sets out to catch a dream.

The manuscript of "Catch a Dream" was a finalist in the 1998 Romance Writers of America Golden Heart Contest. The book has received favorable advance reviews from a variety of sources.

Her second book, *Hometown Girls*, is set in Utah canyon country and is scheduled for release in March of 2002.

Meier suggests that any aspiring author should join a writers' group. If none can be found locally, the internet offers a convenient alternative. She said a writers' group will help the budding authors to focus their work through hints, discussions and useful critiques.

Meier will hold a book signing at Bitter Creek Books from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. on March 24 for her novel.

Mother's m

The book is available for purchase at local stores in the Uintah Basin or online

By Cheryl Mecham
Unitah Basin Standard

"Little Hands" is the first children's book published by Emily Lemon, who felt inspired when her daughter Dalli was born. Lemon put her musings down on paper, "I looked at her little hands, and wondered what she would become one day, what her hands would do."

Lemon writes on the back cover of the book, "I wanted to capture that moment and come back to it again and again, to share it with her."

"Little Hands" was written in rhyme and appeals to young readers with its one line verse and vivid illustrations, drawn by 14-year-old artist Katie Anderson, daughter of Jared and Lindsay Anderson.

"I have never liked writing essays," Lemon confided, adding that writing has been an outlet for her when experiencing emotionally deep feelings. Lemon put down her thoughts in rhyme and poetry. When her mother, Tracy Potter, read the work she told her daughter that she should write children's books.

But she didn't take her mother's advice to heart until she received several children's books when Dalli was born. She read through them and knew in her heart, "I can do this."

After writing the text, Lemon began searching for an illustrator. She didn't know how difficult it would be, "I'd talk to one person and they'd say 'I really don't do that, ask this or that person.'"

While Lemon was telling her husband's grandmother about her hunt for an illustrator, Donna Rae Nelson suggested her great-granddaughter Katie.

"I approached Katie sometime within the last year," Lemon said. Anderson, a sophomore at Union High School, took on the project, excited to be part of a children's book.

"I knew I could draw when I was 8 or 9. I'd sit down and draw for hours, coming up with a bunch of sketches," Anderson said,

explaining in her head the sketches of her best

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Neola woman shares her story entitled 'Paint the Sunrise'

By BRITTANY WILKERSON
Utah Basin Standard

Most, if not all of us, have experienced loss. The experience is unique to each individual but it's nice to know that you're not alone. That's why **Carrie Mae Messerly** wrote "Paint the Sunrise."

In June 2011, Messerly lost her son in an auto-pedestrian accident. She was standing four feet away when it happened. "Paint the Sunrise" is the story of what she experienced and her journey through the two years after the accident.

Messerly didn't want to write this book. She didn't

want to relive it on paper for everyone to see but she says that with "tremendous support from everyone around me to find some means of expression" and "the unwavering notion that I had something to offer or contribute to a society of people who feel the need to isolate themselves inside of their

all, and with absolutely no gain, only self implosion. This (the book) is an outward expression of a

emotions," she decided to write the book.

"The sad part of that observation," says Messerly, "is that the isolation includes all emotions, anything from elation to depression, love to loathing. We hide them

pendulum of emotions I feel are necessary to share in order to exemplify the normalcy of those feelings and the strength one feels when they are validated. It removes the isolation factor and opens means of communication, it forms bonds that are less superficial, and allows for us as a society to form a family. The entire idea is derived from acceptance and love."

Messerly said that "Paint the Sunrise" began "as a blog, a promise I was fulfilling to a friend of mine who had suffered a similar loss to mine."

After deciding to write about her experience to help others, Messerly said



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don't expect you to but tell me their story, the story of their war. In that, I have found that I have a unique ability to identify their feelings, validate them, and leave the individual feeling less alone. To me, that's the silver lining of this consuming cloud. I get to listen, accept, and love them...with all of their battle scars, and maybe because of their battle scars."

When you set out to read Messerly's book, prepare yourself for an emotional roller coaster. "Paint the Sunrise" is full of raw emotion, as well as a little bit of explicit language. Messerly's narrative is very

direction, however. Messerly grew up in Enterprise, Utah, and now lives in Neola, Utah.

"I just hope this tiny town knows that at the end of every day, I'm Carrie Mae and I have lived, lost, and loved in Neola, Utah. Loud and proud."

"Paint the Sunrise" can be purchased online at Amazon.com, in paperback or kindle version, or from Createspace.com. Messerly says she is hoping to have it available locally in the near future.

New author explores skinwalkers

By ViAnn Prestwich
Uintah Basin Standard

An arctic winter, tales of tribal skinwalkers and a handy laptop computer unleashed the creative floodgates for Oranna B. Felter.

The Roosevelt woman writes under the pseudonym RanDee Redwillow. Her first book "High Uinta Moon" was published in October. The second book in her four-part series is scheduled to be released this spring.

"A year and a half ago I got bored during a cold winter just like this one, so I started writing," Felter said.

The Uintah Basin native didn't just start writing, she began the ambitious task of creating a series that could take her several years to complete. Retirement is what most people in their 60s do, instead the Native American woman has decided to write an adventure series called the "Moonfire Saga," to provide a sense of life on the reservation and teach others about the rich culture of the area.

"The ideas come to me at various times," Felter said. "Sometimes I get up at night, sometimes during the day. My laptop is always on."

The mother of two and grandmother of eight was impressed when the Twilight series became so popular. These vampire-themed fantasy romance novels have gained immense popularity and commercial success around the world. Thus far, the first three books have been made into a series of motion pictures.

"I saw a couple of the (Twilight) movies and thought, 'This is good,'" Felter said. "There is no really bad violence."



Oranna B. Felter

tales are part of the fabric of her childhood, so it was natural for them to make their way into her writing. And the stories of skinwalkers still flourish today, just as the Big Foot stories continue to raise the curiosity of many.

Felter's series follows a young American Indian woman who has been chosen to participate in a top-secret police academy consisting of only Native Americans. The fictional academy was established to investigate the disappearance of teenagers. The abductions are the work of a pack of skinwalkers who want human bones for dark sorcery.

As the books' heroine probes the disturbances of ancestral graves and the unknown creatures that walk the reservation, the reader is taken from the

The first book's boldly colored cover is the work of professional artist Henri Peter, a world traveler who uses his experiences and knowledge of several cultures to achieve his artistic expressions.

Felter and her editor, C.J. Ob-ray MetCalf, are pleased with book sales.

"We were surprised at how fast these have taken off," Felter said.

Her first book is on sale at Marion's Variety in Roosevelt and Ashley Valley Trading Post in Vernal. It can also be found on Amazon.com, where the first chapter can be read.

Felter said the book will soon be available online at Barnes & Noble and Borders, and at Sam Weller's and other bookstores. Her granddaughter Brittney will also have a few books to sell locally and be reached by calling 435-722-1281.

"My children and grandchild have helped me distribute the books," Felter said. "I so appreciate them."

Felter has organized a Relay for Life team — RanDee's Skinwalkers — that will participate in the upcoming Uintah Basin Relay for Life, June 3-4 at Uintah High School. She said she deeply believes in helping raise funds for the American Cancer Society.

Felter's youngest daughter battled cancer at a very young age, and many family and friends have been touched by the disease as well.

Those interested in joining Felter's team or making a donation to the American Cancer Society can visit RanDee Redwillow's Facebook page. The first 20 people to sign up will receive a T-shirt with artwork



HIGH MOUNTAIN MOON

PAINTED BY RALPH B. BROWN

New book offers regional chills

by Deborah Tracy
Uintah Basin Standard

When it comes to supernatural boogeymen, each region offers its own special brand. Salem, Mass., has its hitches; Forks, Wash., has its ampires.

In the Uintah Basin, that calm belongs to skinwalkers.

Local author RanDee RedWillow has recently released book Two in her Moonfire series, "Skinwalkers Moon." The creatures are shape-shifters, usually of the evil and pretty threatening to mankind variety.

RanDee RedWillow is the pen name of Oranna B. Felter, who has lived in and around the Uinta and Ouray Indian Reservation her whole life. She describes her work as loosely-based fiction. "I use some of my real-life experiences, some of the things I've seen and some things I've been told, and I blend it into fiction," she said.

RedWillow will be signing copies of her latest book from 2 to 3 p.m. Oct. 20 at Ashley Trading Post in Vernal.

A treat for local readers are familiar places where much of the action takes place. She also tries to blend some people that she knows into some of the characters she writes, she said.

She said she herself has actually seen a skinwalker and has talked to other Native Americans and non-natives who have seen and dealt with them.

RedWillow said those who would like to read "Skinwalkers Moon" should start with the first book in the series, "High Uinta Moon," so they become familiar with the continuing cast of characters. Main characters include Kai Moon and Takoda, natives who become trained and adept at hunting skinwalkers, organizing a team that takes them all throughout the Uinta and Ouray reservation. The latest has them traveling to Mesa Verde in Colorado before returning home to continue to battle the main skinwalker Kasa and his evil sister.

There is an overarching theme to her books, she said. "I always say that prayer is re-

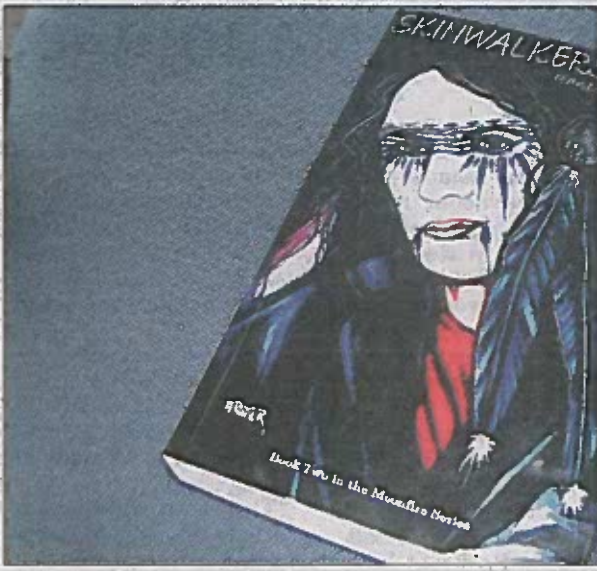
ally powerful and prayer will always overcome the evil," she said. "I feel there is so much evil in the world today. There are so many drugs and alcohol, we have got to keep our kids on the straight and narrow."

RedWillow is retired, and writing the books has been an engaging activity to fill the long cold Basin winters, which she also describes in her latest book.

RedWillow said she plans four, maybe five, books in this series. She writes mostly on the computer, but she keeps her laptop handy by her bed and brings it with her on trips to the mountains. "Things just pop into my head," she said.

Signing her book at Ashley Trading Post seems appropriate; that is where she discovered the art of Henri Peter, who lives in Peru. She contacted him and he agreed to work with her to produce the art work for the covers of her books.

After the release of her first book, RedWillow has heard from local people, many who



"Skinwalkers Moon" is Book Two in the Moonfire Series also known as Oranna B. Felter.

share their own skinwalker stories.

Halloween may be an ideal time to read a chilling tale. "I had to laugh after 'High Uinta Moon,'" she said, noting people told her the book scared them and they were fearful of traveling to Myton. "I've been scared, too, and it wasn't funny," she said. She said she has been pleased with the anticipation readers

have for her continuing series.

The third installment, "Skinwalkers Moon" is scheduled to be released next February. She hopes to have it released on her brother's birthday. The book is dedicated to those who fight cancer, which claimed her brother's life. She is dedicating Book Three to all cancer victims, survivors and those that love them well as those who are battling

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People, pennies significant to author

By ViAnn Prestwich
 Uintah Basin Standard

With nearly 7 billion people alive on the earth today, it's easy for one person to feel insignificant. With approximately 200 billion U.S. pennies currently in circulation, it's hard to attach importance to one little cop-per cent. But, according to first-time author Sherrie Christenson of Vernal, both people and pennies should be valued.

In her book, "The Power of a Penny: The Priceless Journey of One Penny," Christenson celebrates the unknown worth of a penny by following it over the course of 100 years in circulation. Each chapter tells a different story about the person who receives the coin and learns a valuable life lesson.

"Many people say pennies are worthless," Christenson said, "but after reading my book, I hope people will never look at a penny the same way and that they will have a desire to make the world a better place."

Small though the coins may be, Christenson is passionate about the impact pennies can have as they are added together to help others. She has the same passion for how people can join forces to help others.

"I can't do everything," said the mother of three sons, "but I can do something, and as I join others we can do much good."

One of the groups Christenson has chosen to join is Koins for Kenya, an organization that uses 100 percent of all donations to help villagers in Kenya. A portion of the proceeds from her book will go to the nonprofit organization.

As Christenson researched the history of the one-cent piece she discovered that there was considerable controversy over President Theodore Roosevelt's proposal to have the penny feature one of his predecessors, President Abraham Lincoln.

In the early 1900s—when the penny

lied that a man of Lincoln's stature should be on a coin worth more than a mere 1 cent. Others believed that because Lincoln was the common man's president, it was appropriate that he be honored by having his likeness on the common man's penny.

Christenson's foray into researching the penny and becoming an author came after she leaned over to pick up an old penny she saw lying next to a gas pump.

"I just started thinking about who might have had the penny before me," she recalled. "As I researched, I found some really inspirational stories."

Before the stay-at-home mom had written a satisfactory conclusion to her penny's journey, she found a publisher. And her personal story of getting her manuscript



Sherrie Christenson

into print is inspirational all on its own. "I went through some of the books I liked to read and found who published these books," she said. "I sent my book to those companies and was accepted by two of them."

Christenson attributes the lack of rejections first-time authors normally deal with to her book's unique storyline. The fact that her book coincided with Lincoln's 200th birthday and the 100th anniversary of the penny didn't hurt either.

A few weeks before the final manuscript was due at her publisher, Christenson became acquainted with the group reaching out to help the citizens of Kenya. Sending her penny to help African children was an appropriate end to the book.

In a rather fitting coincidence, copies of the book will be sent to Kenya with Brett Van Leeuwen, creator of Koins for Kenya. Van Leeuwen will be traveling to the country to attend a special ceremony in the village of Majengo to mark the completion of a new school and water system being turned over to the community. He will present copies of Christenson's book to Kenyan dignitaries.

SEE PENNY on page A-4

FUN PENNY FACTS

The original 1909 Lincoln penny as the first currency authorized to be made by the United States government. All former coins had been authorized by England.

The Lincoln penny is the first coin to be inscribed with, "In God We Trust."

There are 30 million pennies produced every day.

The shelf life of each penny is approximately 25 years.

In conjunction with the centennial of the Lincoln penny, the U.S. Mint has commissioned four re-designs of the penny. The new pennies will be released throughout the year and each depicts a different stage of Lincoln's life.

PENNY

Continued from page 1

For Christenson this is evidence that even though she is only one person she can still contribute to help those in need thousands of miles away, just by donating her pennies.

Christenson plans to continue writing. She has several ideas for new books. Right now, however, she is still promoting her current publication. There is a book signing planned for Sept. 8 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Gale's Office Supply in Vernal, where the book is presently available.

For more information about Koins for Kenya go to www.koinsforkenya.com. To read more about pennies go to Christenson's blog at www.thepowerofapenny.blogspot.com.

Review: 'Ranch People' tells stories of B

BRITTANY WILKERSON
bwilkinson@ubmedia.biz

"Ranch People" is a collection of stories written by **Fred Pope**. It is 307 pages full of short stories from Pope's ranching days and a few from when he was Justice of the Peace in Duchesne, Utah.

"Ranch People" is a fun book to read. I always enjoy learning history and hearing about how things were back in the day. The way Pope tells his stories it

was as if I was listening to my husband's grandpa Max Quick tell stories from back when he was young.

This book would be enjoyed by those who can remember days like Pope tells about or by those who enjoy a good story around the campfire or kitchen table.

Pope tells stories both about his adventures and those about people he knew, changing names where necessary.

Pope was born March

12, 1905, and was raised in Duchesne. He started out young learning how to be a cowboy and fell in love with it. He went on to get an education, which was important to him, and then went to work in a law office with his dad for J. Reuben Clark.



One day Pope realized that he didn't belong in the law office, he belonged out on a horse on a ranch and he did that until he had to quit for medical reasons. He then became Justice of the Peace until he had to quit that as well. He couldn't just do

nothing so he and Marie Pope, starting miniature dioramas of ranch life.

These dioramas of their house in Duchesne, Utah, which is now known as the Pope House Museum, with the proceeds from "Ranch People" benefit the museum.

The Pope House Museum will hold the annual benefit/bazaar on July 23, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Rexburg teacher writes novel, 'Vernal Promises'

In February of 1981, Jack Harrell, moved to Vernal from Illinois following his brother who moved West to work in the oil business.

His years in Vernal had a lasting effect on him and is the basis for his book. "Vernal Promises" released Sept. 15 by Signature Books.

The unpublished manuscript received the Marilyn Brown Novel Award in 2000 from the Association of Mormon Letters.

While Harrell has lived in Vernal,



Jack Harrell

he worked in several grocery stores and for an oil field equipment sale company. Eighteen months after joining the LDS Church, he left for a mission to Charlotte, N.C.

"Even though the people in my ward barely knew me, they paid the majority of my mission expenses," he said. "To this day I still don't know who the people were who those contributions."

Three months after his mission he married Cindy Hunsaker, a first grade teacher at Maeser Elementary.

"In 1992, in a creative writing class at Brigham Young University, I got the idea for a novel about a troubled young man living in Vernal, Utah," he said. "As I continued to work on the book, I realized that Vernal's small town setting and the natural environment of the high

plains desert was perfect for the kind of spiritual struggle I was trying to portray. There's something about a fight for faith in the wilderness that reaches back to ancient times and resonates with us still."

In 1995, he was hired at Ricks College (now BYU-Idaho), where he started working on the novel again. He completed a 200-page draft, threw out 75 percent and started over. The second draft was 300 pages long. He submitted a third draft to the Marilyn Brown Unpublished novel contest and won first prize, \$1,000.

The novel tells the story of Jacob Dennison and his wife Pa. It begins with Pam's miscarriage, an incident that triggers Pam's re-introduction to the LDS church. It carries the couple through their struggle to find financial, spiritual and marital balance. In the course of the novel, Jacob works in a Vernal grocery store, he works for his father selling oil field equipment and he works for a few months in Rock Springs as a rough neck on a workover rig.

The novel deals with Mormon characters, it's not a story of cheap grace or easy solution. Jacob and Pam face some serious problems in their marriage — with Jacob's drug and alcohol abuse, his infidelity and his fight with his merciless perceptions of God.

If there is a moral to the story, it is that life is filled with hard questions and simple, or rather simplistic answers just don't work.

Harrell has previously published short stories. His work has appeared in Dialogue, Irreantum and Manna. He lives in Rexburg with his wife, Cindy, and their children.

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Vernal Express 8 Oct 2003

Riding on the Edge

By **MARY BERNARD**
Express Writer

"Riding through the brush on the back of a horse...it's where we were most alive" writes Kouris of days spent riding with her brother and sister in Brown's Park.

Riding on the Edge of an Era: Growing Up Cowboy on the Outlaw Trail, written by Diana Allen Kouris and published by High Plains Press, recounts the author's early years on the Brown's Park Livestock Ranch.

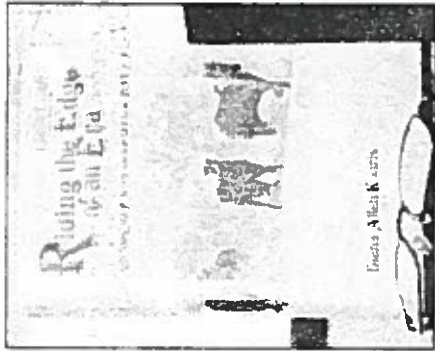
The Park, once home to Butch Cassidy's Wild Bunch, was a treasured landscape where every trail was an adventure for the young Kouris. Into every chore, every cattle drive and every mundane

task the author weaves a story of Western spirit.

Kouris presents a plain-woven tapestry of the lives of grandparents, parents, friends and neighbors whose hardscrabble life of ranching is rich in every detail. With one foot in the past and the other in the present, Kouris retells of the end of the cowboy era in the closing days of the 1960s.

Kouris becomes a scribe to the era offering the reader a brief visit to a bygone era. I wished that the author had offered more detail of events and efforts, particularly about her mother's struggle to preserve historic properties in Brown's Park. I was left wanting more.

Diana Allen Kouris grew up in Brown's Park, Utah. She now lives in the central part of Wyoming with her husband, Mike. The Uintah



Kouris' book tells of life between the old and new West.

County Library will be hosting an author's talk and book signing on July 16 at 5 p.m.

The author will have her book available during the day on July 16 at the Library from 11 a.m. 2 p.m. at 157 E. Main, Vernal. Call 781-0091 for more information.

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Vernal Express
July 8 2009

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Tuesday, October 1, 2013

Book review: Roosevelt author's latest book delves into mu

BY BRITTANY WILKERSON
Utah Basin Standard

You know how frustrating it is when you walk into a room and you can't remember why you walked in there? You end up doing something else then going all the way back to where you started just to remember what it is that you went in there to do in the first place. Now imagine if you walked into your life and couldn't remember what you were doing there. You couldn't remember anything or anyone, not even yourself. In "Erased" by Margaret Chatwin, Ryan doesn't have to imagine what it's like to not remember anything, because he's living it.

"Erased" is about Ryan Farnsworth, a man who had



it all until he drove his car off of a cliff on purpose. He wakes up to find that his body is broken and he can't remember who anyone is, not even himself. Now he has to figure out who he is and why he tried to kill himself. The more he remembers, though, the more he's not so sure he likes who he was.

"Erased" was one of those books that I had to keep read-

ing to find out what was going on. I wanted to know who Ryan was just as much as he did and I was curious to see where the story was going. I kept wondering if he really did kill himself or if there was something more mischievous in play. I can't tell you the answer to that, but I can tell you that Chatwin won't leave you hanging, the end resolves everything quite nicely.

My favorite character was Ryan's brother, Lucas. As much as I would like to, I can't go into great detail about why, but I think that once you get to know him better that you will like him, too. You will find that he is easy to understand and to relate to.

One of my favorite things about the book was how you get a little look into everyone before the end. It kind of gives you a little better perspective and understanding of the characters.

"Erased" does contain explicit content including language, sex and drug use and is not appropriate for all ages.

Chatwin grew up in Heber and has been living in Roosevelt for the last 14 years. "Erased," which was released



Margaret Chatwin

July of this year, is her fourth self-published novel. She is unsure when she will release her next book but she says, "I have manuscripts for 50 books.

I write every day or I crazy." So there will books!

"Don't give up or dreams," Chatwin sa-

UINTAH COUNTY LIBRARY
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Short story idea turns into novel

By NANCY SPURLOCK
Utah Basin Standard

Davin is turning 16 and a panel of 10 men who control every aspect of his life is about to tell him what his future holds. That's the storyline for author Teresa L. White's first book, "Fate's Chosen," a coming-of-age fantasy set in the 16th century.

"I actually was intending to write just a short story for an Internet forum for a game that I play," White said. "It was just an idea and I kind of tossed it around in my head until I finally sat down and did it. Then before I even realized it, I had 90 pages and I was like, 'Well, I guess it's not really a short story.'"

Although White is an avid reader, she never thought she'd have the imagination to write her own book. However, having moved from Sandy to the rural community of Randlett, White felt bored and isolated at times, especially when her daughters were at school. So her husband bought her a laptop.

"I'm first and foremost a mom and wife," White said. "I take care of my family. When I get time to myself I'm immersed in a book. I'm really quiet. I keep to myself. I've been out in the Basin for just a year and a half. It's been a difficult adjustment."

"I thought I'd try writing the short story that I had banging around in my head," White continued. "I was really surprised and when my husband realized what I was doing, it was even a

onto in the book and they can relate it to their own lives."

It took White approximately eight months to get the book published through Trafford Publishing. They took care of everything from her copyright to her cover art, except for the sentences that might entice an online buyer to purchase her book.

"When your fate lies in somebody else's hands, how do you get what you truly desire? An adventurous ride through a different time and place." — Teresa L. White, Author, Fate's Chosen.

"Those were probably the most difficult words to write, for the publisher," White said. "You've got to do it in 25 words or less to catch somebody's attention."

White's 19-year-old daughter Lacey Hendricks was so proud of her mom, she created a fan site for her on the social-networking Web site Facebook.

"I'm so proud to say that my mom wrote this book," Hendricks said. "I read it before it went to Trafford. I loved it and I think it's really cool that my mom wrote a book. My friends are all dying to read it. They want to come up and visit so she can sign it."

"I think it's important for people to know that if they have an idea, they should go for it," White said. "I never in a million years planned to do anything like this and it's really blown up over the past couple of weeks."

"I really thought it would not



Author Teresa L. White of Randlett signs a copy of her book — Fate's Chosen — for a fan in Korea. White decided to write a short story and it evolved into a published book. It's available for purchase online.

Lapoint author relives old days in "The Adventures of a Rancher"

JOSHUA MURDOCK
jmurdock@vubmedia.biz

When Duane Dahl was growing up in northeast South Dakota in the 1940s and '50s, he never imagined that he'd someday live in Lapoint, Utah. He never knew he'd live in Montrose, Colorado, or in Idaho, either. But life's twists and turns, both expected and not, carried Dahl across the heartland of the U.S., through hardship and triumph, and to many a life lesson.

All of that is recounted in Dahl's memoir, "The Adventures of a Rancher."

THE ADVENTURES OF A RANCHER



MY JOURNEY OF FAITH
DUANE E. DAHL

"My Journey of Faith," the 171-page book recounts his life from being born in Webster, South Dakota, in 1944 almost to the present day. The book also details his ancestors' heritage and

the circumstances that lead to his family coming together as it did.

While the book is primarily a retelling of history, stories and life lessons, faith in god is an underlying theme.

"The people that have their faith just seem to have a better knowledge of things going on around them," said Dahl. "I hear a lot of people - well, not a lot of people - saying, 'This machine broke down,' or something or other, and they curse god. Well, no, you really shouldn't be doing that; you should be asking God for help. You should kind of have God with you everyday, and things go way better."

A man of strong lifelong faith, Dahl was not immune to his faith being tested, especially following the tragic, accidental death of his four-year-old son.

"I think everyone is kind of an up and down thing," said Dahl. "It isn't just steady faith, faith, faith; sometimes you kind of slip and then you think, 'Oops, I better get on this again.' I mean, you keep trying and everyday is a new day, but everyone has

their ups and downs."

After becoming despondent from the loss of his son, the breakdown of his family and foreclosure of his ranch, Dahl was losing his faith - or at least wavering. But a near-miss while trucking brought him back.

While rounding a curve above a deep ravine in the San Juan mountains of southwest Colorado, the front tire of Dahl's truck blew out. Without power steering and already in the turn, the truck was headed off the edge of the road and into the ravine where Dahl was certain he'd die, he wrote. But just in time, an arm reached down from above, grabbed the steering wheel and brought the rig back onto the road where Dahl could stop it.

His faith was restored.

"When I really went down (in my faith) and that arm come down on the steering wheel, that turned me around real quick," said Dahl.

Dahl hoped that readers of all ages would enjoy his book - young readers getting guidance and older readers reminiscing. "I kind of wrote it basi-

cally for teenagers, was my idea. You know, to get them started in life and the things I've learned about this country," said Dahl. "But then people my age are enjoying the book because it brings back memories to them."

The values that Dahl grew up with are ones he said are fading away in the country today.

"Going to school, the things we learned back then should be available today. There still should be Pledge of Allegiance to the flag; teachers should still say a prayer in the morning, which has all been eliminated, so I kind of brought that up (in the book)," said Dahl. "I think we should go back to the belief in God more. People back when I was raised, everyone was going to church and now you see that slipping quite a bit."

But Dahl also sees that some values have failed to fade in America's Midwest and rural areas, noting that it's "real strong in this area."

"When you go to all these small towns in the Midwest or rural America, it's all very strong there

yet," said Dahl. "It's still going, it's just not recognized by the media or the government what's going on - they kind of overlook it."

Dahl hoped people will bring faith back into their lives the way he saw it in people's lives as a child and in rural communities across the West.

"I think they would think more about the next life, because that's what my son found out when he was four and he asked, 'When is Jesus going to take me?' I mean, he was ready and he knew what was going to happen - not exactly, he just kind of knew when," said Dahl. "I think everyone should be thinking more that way, you know. None of us live forever and it ends up you're either going to heaven or hell, so you should at least think about it. I mean, some people go and have the nicest home and all that here, but someday we're gone."

"The Adventures of a Rancher" is available on Amazon.com and in the Utah County Heritage Museum and Lapoint Store.

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Two Vernal authors target fantasy and aviation

Two Vernal authors have recently contributed a wide range of literary thought and will be recognized at a joint book signing Saturday, Feb. 7, at Bitter Creek Books in Vernal from 2 to 4 p.m.

Beverly Lee, author of "Adventures of Arianna," has produced a young teenaged girl's adventure fantasy, while John LeRoy Caldwell has produced an in depth documentary of the aviation program at Utah Valley State College.

For Vernal author Beverly Lee, writing a fast-moving fantasy story that touches the teenaged girl book market, is a very personal thing.

In "Adventures of Arianna," Lee uses the names of her children, grandchildren and friends for her long list of exciting characters.

Her family finds entertainment in discovering which character is named for them and teases her about the way she "re-spells" their names and places with which they are familiar.

Lee is adamant that the evil uncle in her story of Arianna is not a member of her family.

"The story is a fairy tale. Anything works because it's "magic," she says.

Lee was encouraged to write and expand the way she wrote, by a sister with whom she had an e-mail correspondence. Beverly was encouraged to "st-re ee-e-ich" what she was saying, and to use her imagination with fantasy.

"I wasn't quite finished with "Adventures of Arianna" when she passed away two years ago," Lee says.

The author says she's written in the past, but had not published her work, until "Arianna." She anticipates several book signings in Illinois later this spring.

Raised in Illinois, Lee and her husband Robert moved to Vernal in 1978, where Robert worked on the Red Fleet Dam.

John LeRoy Caldwell began life as a descendant of two of the original Ashley Valley pioneer settlers. His life has taken him throughout the world in enough occupations to fill two lifetimes.



Beverly Lee

of Science in history from the University of Utah and his Masters of Education in Secondary Curriculum and Instruction from Brigham Young University. He received his Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from BYU.

Caldwell has spent over 30 years in the classroom at public schools, various colleges and universities across America, and has been a president of a proprietary college.

The Vernal native spent 26 years as an officer in the United States Army, 20 of those years in the cockpit.

No stranger to published works, Caldwell has authored "German



John LeRoy Caldwell

Prisoners of War in Utah During World War II"; "Messenger and Advocate" published in the "Encyclopedia of Mormonism, Vol. 2; "Maintenance Test Flight Manual for the UH-1H Helicopter," and "96th United States Army Reserve Command Mobilization Plan" for the United States Army; "Planning and Managing Projects, Project Management Guidelines" for the Iomega Corporation; "Safety is Top Priority" published in Goldbar Leader; and "Impact of Financial Restrictions on American Community College Functions."

Vernal Express 4 Feb 2004 RHC 3533

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John LeRoy Caldwell began life as a descendant of two of the original Ashley Valley pioneer settlers. His life has taken him throughout the world in enough occupations to fill two lifetimes.

"The Dream is Alive" is Caldwell's most recently published work and chronicles the people, places and decisions that have made the aviation program today what it is at Utah Valley State College.

He includes dozens of colored photographs of the people involved and photos of significant media articles which help tell the full story of the department since 1941.

The author received his Bachelors

No stranger to published works, Caldwell has authored "German

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Vernal Express May 1, 2018

NEWS BRIEFS

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Local authors to converge for book signing at the Library

BY STAFF REPORTS

Uintah Basin's World of Words started out as a project by Terry Haney to get local author Veronica Lawson more book signings.

"We were just talking one day and I went, 'there's a lot more local authors around,'" Haney said. "Let's do something with everybody."

Haney posted online asking if anybody knew any local authors, and word spread quick.

"It took off," Haney said. "At that time, there were 17 authors in the Basin that I got names for and three of them were not published yet."

That something with everybody has turned into a 10 author book signing at the Uintah Library May 5, from 1-5 p.m. Veronica Lawson, Nathaniel Searle, Emily Lemon, Joe Jessup, Bethany Wiggins, Jessica Prather, Myke Hall, and Nikki Kitchen, RanDee

RedWillow, and Ryan Mitchel Collins are the confirmed 10 authors who will be in attendance at the signing.

All of the authors will have copies of their books on hand available for purchase, and all the participating author books are available on Amazon.

"There's still more of them (authors) out there," Haney said. "Three of them couldn't make it just because of the date."

The plan for the signing is to give each of the authors 15 minutes to read a chapter or passage of their work, and there will be a free drawing for a book of the winners choice.

"I'd like to try and make this an annual event type thing," Haney said. "Everybody kind of writes in a different genre, so it's great. We got romance, kids, and fantasies."

For more information about the event and authors visit Uintah Basin's World of Words Facebook page.

County Commission changes ordinance

BY STAFF REPORTS

The Uintah County

an Upgrader near Pelican Lake.

The company discussed briefly with the commission

Sept 4, 2012

Utah man pens second in series of books on black pot

By Deborah Tracy
Utah Basin Standard

About six years ago Jodi Hansen bought her husband a Dutch oven as a Father's Day present.

"She said it was the best investment she ever made," said Mark Hansen of Eagle Mountain, Utah.

He started learning to use a style of cooking vessel that has been in existence for hundreds of years. He began by cooking his family's Sunday dinner on the back porch. As he acquired more experience, he started a blog: markblackpot.com.

He was approached last year by Cedar Fort Publishing, asking if he had ever thought of writing a book. "I had thought of it, but I never thought I had a chance," he said. He wrote up a proposal and was rewarded with a four-book contract.

Cedar Fort Publishing is located in Springville, Utah, and specializes in uplifting books, many aimed at the LDS market.

The second in Hansen's series, "Black Pot for Beginners," is billed as "sure-fire methods to get a great Dutch oven dish every time." It goes on sale Sept. 11 for \$12.99 and can be pre-ordered on Amazon.com.

Hansen said this is a full-on beginner's guide where each recipe is covered step-by-step so someone who has never even touched a Dutch oven can take lesson by lesson and come through the book quite knowledgeable in the world of black-pot cooking.

Dutch oven has long been popular in the Intermountain West, Hansen said, but it is gaining popularity beyond the region.

He believes its regional popularity has a lot to do with Western culture, starting with cooks on cattle drives and Western pioneers. "I think it just came out of that heritage," he said.

Hansen grew up in Indiana



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Orders are already being placed on Amazon.com for "Black Pot for Beginners," the newest book by Mark Hansen of Eagle Mountain, Utah, to be released Sept. 11. This cookbook, the second in a four-book series, is intended to take the most novice Dutch oven cooker knowledgeable about how to use the vessel.

to cook a really nice meal," he explained.

There is also a segment of society these days interested in emergency preparedness, and the Dutch oven can play a role in that as well. "During power outages I am able to cook a full delicious meal, not just a hot dog over the fire."

And, of course, there's pure enjoyment. "People are discovering it's just plain fun. Social groups get together and have a Dutch oven gathering, bring their pots and share with everyone else." True pot

with snow falling all around him.

He enjoys the long and slow aspect of cooking with the Dutch oven. "It's nice to sit on the back porch, watching the coals glow, and tell the rest of the world not to bother me, I'm cooking," he said.

Hansen's first book was printed last April, "The Best of the Black Pot."

He said it was a compilation of some of the better and more diverse recipes from his five years of blogging on the subject.

Mark Hansen, author of the soon-to-be-released "Black Pot for Beginners," shares with *Utah Basin Standard* readers one of his very favorite ways to do a roast.

The recipe is included in his newest book, the second in a planned four-book series.

The recipe gives the roast a lot of complex flavors, he said: tangy, savory and sweet.

Dutch Oven Roast Beef with Balsamic Glaze

12-inch deep Dutch oven
8-10 coals below
10-12 coals above

2 tbsp. Olive oil
3-4 gloves garlic, minced
Kosher salt
Coarse ground pepper

One. When you put in the veggies, peel off the bacon strips and drape them over the meat. I usually use thick-cut, peppered bacon, and I usually cut the strips in half. During cooking, the fats of the bacon will render out and make the meat that much juicier.

3-5 lb. Beef roast
3-4 large potatoes
3-4 medium onions
1-2 carrots, sliced
2-3 stalks celery, sliced
1/4 lb. Bacon
1/4 tbsp. Coarse ground pepper
1 tbsp. Kosher salt
1 tbsp. Olive oil
3 tbsp. Balsamic vinegar
1/2 cup honey, maybe a little more

Books of the week **is of books on black pot cooking** **Dutch Oven Roast Beef recipe**

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 2 tbsp. Olive oil
 3-4 gloves garlic, minced
 Kosher salt
 Coarse ground pepper

3-5 lb. Beef roast
 3-4 large potatoes
 3-4 medium onions
 1-2 carrots, sliced
 2-3 stalks celery, sliced

1/2 lb. Bacon

1/2 tbsp. Coarse ground pepper

1 tbsp. Kosher salt

1 tbsp. Olive oil
 3 tbsp. Balsamic vinegar
 1/2 cup honey, maybe a little more

One. When you put in the veggies, peel off the bacon strips and drape them over the meat. I usually use thick-cut, peppered bacon, and I usually cut the strips in half. During cooking, the fats of the bacon will render out and make the meat that much juicier.

Two. When the roast is happily cooking, we're going to kick it up a notch. About an hour before serving time, make the Honey and Balsamic Vinegar Glaze.

Mix all of the final set of ingredients together and dab it over the meat with a basting brush.

It will seep down between the bacon slices and soak into the roast. You probably won't use all of the glaze at once, but after another 15 to 20 minutes you can add more to the roast.

The sweet and sour of the honey and balsamic vinegar with the saltiness of the bacon add a delicious overtone to the meat. It's amazing!

Cooking time estimated at three to four hours. Test by using two forks and try to pull it apart. When it falls apart, it's done.

Vernal man to publish book about testimony

Glen J. Mecham, of Dry Fork, is in the process of publishing a religious book "From the Back Row — Rekindling Your Testimony" which will be available in limited quantities next week from Gales Office Supply.

The book is being published by Mansfield Printing in Vernal and proceeds from the book will go to Primary Children's Hospital.

"I have learned that personal experiences and the ideas they express are what we remember in our lives. This book relates many personal experiences of people that we can all relate to, learn from, and remember," Mecham said. "It is truly a guide to our mortal lives and immortal salvation."

The book is an attempt to stimulate and rekindle a dormant testimony of Jesus Christ or to motivate one to develop your own first-time, personal, and active testimony of Him.

"Whichever category you might fit into at this time, you will find these pages filled with positive and exciting stories which will definitely motivate you," Mecham said.

"We must all strive to develop our own personal testimony of Jesus Christ in our mortal life," he said. "True and sincere testimonies that we possess will nourish us through every day of our lives. True testimonies will testify that God the Father is the Master of the universe no matter what religion we are. It is truly in God's plan that man might have joy in this life. God's plan is one that addresses happiness, love,



Book by Glen Mecham to be available next week.

the words that He speaks to us both day and night if we will listen. Being able to listen and understand these words of Christ, will enable us to become as one spirit with Him. To be of one spirit, we must also understand that He is Lord of Lord and King of Kings. When you find yourself expressing or feeling gloom, fear, and doubt, you are expressing words of Satan. God's light to the world is a positive light that guides your life and is one of happiness due to following his commandments."

"Satan is very pleased when we depend on others' testimonies instead of developing our own. We cannot depend on the testimonies of others without developing our own because they will be weak testimonies and decay with time," he said. "We also find many people with great testimonies which are deeply hidden and undisclosed. These may be great testimonies but must be reakti-

Vernal native author spins Grimm

BY BRITTANY WILKERSON
Uintah Basin Standard

Remember when you were little and you would watch the same Disney movie over and over and over again? The princess would end up with the prince and everyone lived happily ever after. Well, not according to the Brothers Grimm. And not according to Janna Jennings in her book "A Grimm Legacy."

"A Grimm Legacy" follows Andi, Quinn, Dylan and Frederick who are each suddenly whisked away to Elorium, where an unknown villain is forcing them to finish fairy tales that have been left unfinished. Now they have to learn how to work together and find a way home.

The thing I enjoyed most about this book is the characters. Not only were their personalities well written but so were their relationships with each other. The friendships they formed along with the feelings they had for each other and the ways in which they sometimes drove each other crazy were very true to life. Jennings certainly didn't



Basin native Janna Jennings' 'A Grimm Legacy' looks at the darker side of fairy tales.

write uncomplicated relationships that make a reading girl swoon but instead made them uncertain and at times very entertaining or frustrating, which I greatly enjoyed!

One fun thing I learned about the book from Jennings is that she has experience with hot air ballooning, rock climbing, and sailing, which are all activities that her characters participate in. Jennings admits "I like those things and wanted to tie them

together." Which she did, beautifully! Writing those aspects of her childhood into the book added to the story, giving the characters focal points.

"I loved reading as a child," said Jennings. "I devoured books and I loved C.S. Lewis. I love a well told story, when you get to the end of the book and you want more. I want to leave my readers with that feeling of 'where's the rest of it, I want more.' I hope to leave my readers wanting more because they loved the story that much. Or even just wanting to go out and find something else to read or wanting to write something."

"A Grimm Legacy" was released October of this year and is Jennings' first book. It was picked up by Patchwork Press when Jennings won a National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) contest. She hopes to release the second book in the series sometime in the coming year. Jennings is currently working on an Anthology which will feature stories from all five authors from Patchwork Press.

Jennings, a native of the Uintah Basin, now lives in Aurora, Colo., with her husband and three kids. She spent most of her childhood in Vernal, Utah where she attended Uintah

High School.

For more information about Jennings and "Grimm Legacy," visit her website at <http://www.janna.patchwork-press.com>.

Local author sees new success with each new book



LIBERTY BEST, VERNAL EXPRESS

Bethany Wiggins is the author of three published books and is preparing for her fourth book to be released on Feb. 21, 2017. Her new book, *The Dragon's Price*, is a fantasy and book one in a trilogy.

LIBERTY BEST
lbest@unimedia.biz

A local novelist has come a long way in her six years writing professionally; from selling international rights for books to be sold worldwide, to being mandatory reading in middle schools nationwide and being part of Scholastic book fairs.

Bethany Wiggins, of Vernal, is preparing for the release of her new young adult fantasy novel, *The Dragon's Price*, which is the first in the Transference Trilogy, hitting shelves Feb. 21, 2017, with the second and third books following in consecutive years thereafter. The books are published by Random House.

"It is about a girl who chooses death by dragon over an arranged marriage. People will say, 'wow, how did you come up with that,' well, I've been married 20 years, I know what marriage is like," Wiggins said laughing.

Looking back at her beginning career, Wiggins said in 2010 she hoped she would be where she is

now, but she had no idea.

"After launching one book I didn't think I would, it is so hard just to get your foot in the business even with a publisher, no I didn't know if I would be here right now and it still shocks me that I am," Wiggins said.

She has won two awards; Sunshine State Young Readers Award after all the middle schools in Florida voted for Wiggins' book and the Nebraska Gold and Silver Award, when 62,000 kids voted after reading her books.

"They are required reading at schools," Wiggins said. "My books get inside every middle school in the country."

Wiggins said she loves that her books are in schools and enjoys receiving feedback from teachers. Through feedback, Wiggins has learned she is helping teach kids the love of reading. She said she likes knowing that she can help youth learn that reading is amazing and stories are amazing.

"I will get messages from teachers and students contently saying 'I had a reluctant reader

and your book is the book that finally got that person to start reading,'" Wiggins said. "There's one, Dawn Taylor, she has a million words club, she says my book is the book she puts in the hands of kids who do not like to read and she said every single time they will actually read it."

Wiggins said writing a trilogy is a challenge when compared to writing a stand-alone novel. She said she is happy to have already completed books two and three of the trilogy, completing book three at the end of January.

She said over the years of her professional writing, she has not noticed much change in the way writing means to her, saying the story ideas and excitement to start a story have always been there. She has noticed that now, when she writes a first draft, there is less to edit, cut and add in later.

Wiggins is a mother of five children, ranging from 3 to 15 years old, but said finding time to write

is a priority because she only has one year to finish a book, along with editing what she has already written, keeping up on Facebook, blogging and twitter, sometimes she says she juggles a lot at one time.

"I don't sit down very often, I don't watch television, I give up sleep, it's like I work to be a mom and when I have a break I try to sit down and write," she said. "But right now I have four kids in school, one in kindergarten and the rest are in full day, so when that little girl is in kindergarten I have two side-by-side computers, [youngest child] gets one and I get one. I sit and write 1,000 words a day minimum, six days a week."

Wiggins said if she is disciplined with her writing she does not fall behind. She said a book has to be a minimum of 70,000 words and if she keeps up and reaches her goal she can get a story completed in 70 days.

She said she generally knows the beginning and end of a story before she sits down and writes it and as she writes she knows how the story is going to move along.

"The Dragon's Price, I knew how it was going to end but it didn't end that way. I didn't know how it was going to end until I was about 20 pages from the end and then it broke my heart because it's a sad ending," Wiggins said. "I had to stop writing. I couldn't write for a week and I would get teary just thinking about the ending."

She said she was so mad that the book had to end the way it did, but there was no other way for it to end and she had no choice. She said sometimes she gets "thrown for a loop" with how her books change the way they are going.

Wiggins said all her children read her books, [she reads to the younger ones and skips parts to make them age appropriate] her oldest child is her "test audience," and was the first to read *The Dragon's Price*. She said her daughter told her it was the best book she had written so far.