

# Cowgirl publishes book of poetry describing her life

Many people have heard Helene Landenberger, Wild Rose Poet, entertain at different functions or have her CD titled "Rawhide and Roses." Now, she has published a book, "Bloomin' Prairie Poetry."

The book contains poetry describing her life from the age of 11. She said that was when she first noticed her future husband, or, rather the horse he was riding. She said they were involved in the same riding and roping clubs and eventually, they were married.

The poem, "First Love," describes what happened in those few years and the years that followed. The book, through poetry, tells about the story of family, special horses, memorable characters, appreciation of the land and historical events.

My roots run deep in Cheyenne County, she said, as my Grandpa (Fred) Magley homesteaded in the county in 1907. Through the years, her family has continued farming and ranching.

There is a lot in the book about her dad, Arnold Magley.

"As there came a time in his life that I realized some of his great stories could be lost for all time if not written down," she said. "Not feeling like a story writer at that time, they came in the form of rhymes.

"He is the star of the memorable characters, but there are some other good ones (characters) as well."

A few years after he died, Ms. Landenberger began to focus on local "Old West" history, writing quite a lot on the subject. She recently helped Dorthy Mast, who was writing articles for Cheylin students, by adding her poem, "L&LLP Stage Line - 1859."

It just fit in with the work Dorthy is doing in the Bird City Historical Association, she said.

Ms. Landenberger began performing her original poetry in 1993 and was on the opening program of the Red Steagall Show in Torrington, Wyo., in 1996. In 2007, she opened for Riders in the Sky in Colby. She has also performed at many different events and for organizations in the area.

This year, the Kansas Federation of Music Clubs named her "Poet of the Year." This was when she decided to put her poetry in book form.

"It (the book) had been on my mind for years as there were times when I was performing that peo-



**WILD ROSE Poet Helene Landenberger looks over her new book, 'Bloomin' Prarie Poetry.'**

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

ple would ask about 'a book,'" she said.

Helene was born in rural Cheyenne County and attended country school for two years at which time, the Bird City school consolidation occurred.

She raised four children, two girls and two boys, and, she said, filled those years with livestock and riding.

While performing, she opens with a poem which tells much about her life. It starts:

I'm the Wild Rose Poet, you maybe didn't know it,

And I'm proud to be from our town,

Wherever I go, I'll always show,

I wear that name like a crown.

Yes it is St. Francis, here in Northwest Kansas,

Cheyenne County has been my home...

To purchase the book, CD or have Ms. Landenberger perform, call her at 785-332-2528. The book is also available on line but only in hard copy.



**CLOSE CALL — Someone almost had a 20-foot drop Saturday night when they rounded the corner northwest of St. Francis and about missed the bridge completely. The county road and bridge crew were fixing the damage Monday morning. Pictured, left to right, are Ben Killinsworth, Dave Flemming and Mike Antholz.**

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Vehicle hits railing on bridge

Someone had a close call Saturday night when a vehicle came around the corner near the River Walk northwest of St. Francis knocking the north railing of the bridge loose. The tire tracks showed that the driver rode on the

railing for much of the length of the bridge before coming back to the road.

The Cheyenne County deputy, Cody Beeson, worked the accident and said the accident is under investigation.

Dave Flemming, county road and bridge department supervisor, said he had been with the department for at least 25 years and this was the third time he has fixed the railing on the bridge.

## Housing grant available to help

Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission received \$100,000 in Tenant based Rental Assistance (TBRA) to help northwest Kansas families obtain safe, affordable housing of their choice. It is funded through the federal Home Investment Partnerships Program, awarded by Kansas Housing Resources Corporation and administered by Development Commission.

Providing up to two years of rent-

al subsidy assistance, the funds will help income-eligible households obtain affordable rental housing in their communities. The assistance is based on the eligible tenant's selection of a unit from all available rental units in the community that fall within rent guidelines and pass housing Quality Inspection Standards.

Households served may include those meeting agency preferences such as single parents, victims of

domestic violence, senior citizens and person with disabilities. Households generally pay no more than 30 percent of their income for rent. Security and utility deposit assistance will also be available.

Grant funds will be available Nov. 1. Those seeking assistance or having questions may contact Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission by mail or by email at P.O. Box 248, Hill City, KS 67642 or nwkpcd@ruraltel.net.

## Library offers book discussion

A three-part book discussion series is being offered through the St. Francis Public Library, 121 N. Scott, starting Tuesday. The theme is "Westering." This is a free program and members of the community are urged to attend.

The first meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday. Marilyn E. Klaus will lead a discussion of *A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains* by Isabella L. Bird.

The book describes a Victorian woman's horseback journey through the Rocky Mountains.

Ms. Klaus is a lecturer with Religious Studies and African and African American Studies at the University of Kansas.

The westward movement of settlers and the existence of a frontier of settlement in the last century played an important role in shaping the country's character. The "Westering" series examines, through fact and fiction, the American West and its enduring role in American life.

The series continues with *A Scattered People: An American Family Moves West* by Gerald McFarland (Oct. 18) and *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Stein-

beck (Nov. 2).

To check out books and for more information about the reading series, contact the library at 332-3292.



Klaus

The series is sponsored by the Kansas Humanities Council, a nonprofit cultural organization, as part of its Talk About Literature in Kansas (TALK) program. The center is furnishing the books and discussion leaders for the St. Francis series. For more information about the Humanities Council, visit [www.kansashumanities.org](http://www.kansashumanities.org).

## Church cancels Sunday service to serve others in community

St. Francis Community Church is canceling regular Sunday service in order to serve others in the community. Faith in Action weekend is set for Sunday, Oct. 2, and the church members will be out in the community doing for others.

Plans include having a group hold a special service at the Good Samaritan Village. Other groups will pull weeds at the Cheyenne County Hospital and shampoo the carpet at the movie theatre. In addition, another group will be waxing the floor at the St. Francis Senior Center and cleaning up outside of the center. Groups will

also be raking leaves and doing light jobs for various individuals around town. A total of seven work projects will be held over the weekend.

"We are excited about how our congregation has rallied to support this special weekend of service to our community," said Pastor David Butler.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause to those planning to attend services on Oct. 2, but our doors will be open as usual on Oct. 9.

"If you would like to come at 10 on Oct. 2 and join us in serving

our community, you are more than welcome," he said. Contact Pastor David at 785-332-3150 or davidbutler777@mac.com.

## Sheriff's News

Sheriff Craig Van Allen reported a pickup was stolen from the David Hendricks farm on U.S. 36 and Road 25 on Friday night, Sept. 9. It was discovered in Colorado the next morning. An individual was arrested and charges are pending.

Theft and vandalism occurred Thursday, Sept. 18, at K-27 and Road E south of Wheeler. Wheels, tires and fuel were taken

and some of the corn field was damaged. It was evident that the individual(s) doing the damage also tried to break into the office. The case, he said, was still under investigation.

On Saturday night, a vehicle hit the guard rail at the bridge northwest of St. Francis near the River Walk. The sheriff said the case is still under investigation but there is a lead on who the driver was.

## Book Review

Book review from the St. Francis Public Library

### Secrets to the Grave

By Tami Hoag

Marissa Fordham had a past full of secrets, a present full of lies. Everyone knew of her, but no one knew her.

When Marissa is found brutally murdered, her young daughter, Haley, with her head on her mother's bloody breast, this mystery woman sends the idyllic California town of Oak Knoll into a tailspin. Already on edge with the upcoming trial of the See-No-Evil killer, residents are shocked at reports of the crime scene, which might not have been discovered for days but for a chilling 911 call: a small child's voice saying, "My daddy hurt my mommy."

The police face a puzzle with nothing but the pieces that won't fit. To assist with their only witness, four-year-old Haley, they call teacher-turned-child advocate Anne Leone. Anne's life is hectic enough-she's a newlywed and a part-time student in child psychology, and she's the star witness in the See-No-Evil trial. but one look at Haley, alone and terrified, and Anne's heart is stolen.

As Anne, her FBI profiler hus-

band, Vince, and local sheriff's deputy Tony Mendez begin to peel back the layers of Marissa Fordham's life, they find a clue fragment here, another there. And just when it seems Marissa has taken her secrets to the grave, they uncover a fact that puts Anne and Haley directly in the sights of a killer: *Marissa Fordham never existed at all.*

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**Wray Community Health Fair**  
**Blood Draw Dates: Weekdays, Oct. 7- Oct. 21, 6-9:30 a.m. MT**  
**Wray Community District Hospital**  
**Idalia Visions Oct. 6, 6-9:30 a.m. MT & Oct. 24, 7-9 a.m. MT**  
 May take normal medications prior to test  
 Fast for 12 hours (but DRINK plenty of water!)  
**\$25 - Chem Panel** (glucose, blood count, electrolytes, thyroid & more)  
**\$15 - PSA** (prostate blood test for men)  
**Fair Date: Oct. 26, 5:30 - 7 p.m. at WRAC**  
**Bone density screening will be available at the fair for \$50.**  
**Call for a Blood draw and bone density appointments: 970-332-4811**  
**(Appointments Highly Encouraged!)**  
**Sponsored by: The Wray Community District Hospital, Wray Clinic, and the Wray Lions Club**

**Thank You**  
 The family of Martha Louise Zwegardt wishes to thank the community for the many kind expressions of sympathy extended to them. We especially wish to thank Pastor Farmer and the members of Salem Lutheran Church for providing an uplifting funeral service and for the reception following. We thank the many family members, friends & neighbors who attended the funeral, came to the visitation, send cards and flowers, and contributed to the memorial fund. A special thank you is extended to Rosanna and Kim Underwood and Gary and Bethany Hopp who opened their homes to us. Your thoughtfulness was appreciated and touched our hearts! The family of Ruth Zwegardt Britton and Glenn Zwegardt.

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