

Former Kanorado woman writes children's book

The children's picture book is the story of a little, black dog named Howard Eugene Plantenberg — known as Howie, and his adventures.

A retired second grade teacher Vivian Damratowski, formerly Vivian Cox, and a 1963 graduate of Kanorado High School, said writing her first children's book has been a super stupendous, gigantic adventure.

Damratowski of Loup City, Neb., recently self-published a picture book based on her daughter Tyra, granddaughter Korryn and their Yorkie poodle mix, Howard Eugene Plantenberg — or Howie.

"It's a struggle between his need for adventure and his loyalty," she said. "Any child could enjoy it, but I would think it's probably for first grade through fourth grade," she said.

"Howie's Super Stupendous Gi-



Vivian Damratowski (Cox) held a copy of her children's book.

gantic Adventure" is about 40 pages long. Jere Schwartzkopf of Burwell, Neb., was the book's illustrator.

"I enjoyed creating the scenes for 'Howie's Super Stupendous, Gigantic Adventure,' and I wouldn't be surprised if in the future he doesn't find himself in another book," Schwartzkopf said in a press release.

The book was published through Xlibris, an online print-on-demand company.

Damratowski taught second grade at Loup City Public Schools for 27 years and retired in 2004.

"I always thought I would write immediately after I retired because I had many stories in my head, but this is my first one," she said.

She said her experience working with young children helped her write the book.

"I have one granddaughter and she's in the third grade, so I went to

Omaha to read to her class. That was a real kick for her," she said.

"Every time Howie is thwarted in his attempt for adventure, he says, 'I don't care. I don't want it anyhow. I'm going to have a super stupendous, gigantic adventure, and I'd better be on my way.' At some point the kids started to say that with me. Little children love big words. They might not even know a smaller word, but they won't forget a big one," she said.

Damratowski lives with her husband, Casey, in Loup City. She has lived in other small towns, a forest reserve and in the slums of a large city.

Her adult children live in Omaha, their son Shawn and his wife Kim, and their daughter Tyra, their granddaughter Korryn and her grand dog Howard.

The Dramatoski's travel every chance they get appreciating different cultures and languages, and one trip took them to Antarctica.

Vivian said if she had any person wish it would be to speak every language in the world.

She has thought up stories most of her life, and has written some down. This is the first of those to be published.

'Beach Party on the Plains' theme for 21st Slice of Life hospital benefit

The 21st annual benefit auction and Slice of Life golf tournament will be held June 25-26 at Sugar Hills Golf Club with a beach party on the Plains theme.

Honorary Chairman Dr. Roy Jensen, director of the University of Kansas Cancer Center and director of the Midwest Cancer Alliance is looking forward to having people and celebrities join in the special event to help raise money for the Northwest Kansas Area Medical Foundation.

The event has grown every year, said Tina Goodwin, marketing director for Goodland Regional Medical Center, and last year the medical foundation raised approximately \$100,000, and hopes to exceed that level this year to continue providing

help to the hospital.

The medical foundation financially supports the hospital and proceeds from the Slice of Life help in recruiting efforts and special health-care programs such as the Midwest Cancer Alliance, Goodwin said.

The Slice of Life will begin on Friday, June 25, with a reception at Sugar Hills Golf Club followed by the benefit auction and entertainment under the tents. This year the Beach Party on the Plains will take everyone to sand beaches and warm waters with celebrities from the National Basketball Association, National Football League and film industry special guests, Goodwin said.

Among the celebrities who attend the Slice of Life events include Karl Mecklenburg, Scott McPhail, Jo

Jo White, "Bud" Stallworth, Tim Kempton, Billy Thompson, Walter White, Larry Marshall, Fran Lynch, Charley Johnson, Walter Davis and "Gator" Rivers are a few of the many who have joined to support this worthy cause, Goodwin said.

The benefit auction will include autographed items from the NBA, NFL, baseball and film industry plus resort trips, hotel accommodations and many other unique items, she said.

The Slice of Life Golf Tournament has a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 26, at Sugar Hills Golf Club.

Teams of three are separated into "Acute," "Chronic," "Maligner," and "Malady" fights, and prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third place teams of each of the

flights.

Other prizes include closest to the pin (second shot and tee shot), closest to the bedpan, longest drive, shortest drive, closest approach shot, putting contest, closest to the IV, longest putt and more.

There is a hole-in-prize of \$10,000 with half going to the golfer and half to the foundation, and a lucky golfer could even win an automobile.

Goodwin said the foundation is looking for sponsors as well as accepting registrations for the golf tournament. Sponsorships range from \$100 to \$5,000, and entry fees for the golf tournament are \$130 per golfer or \$390 for a team of three.

Goodwin said people can contact her at the hospital (785) 890-6036 or e-mail her at tinag@gmedctr.org.

Tea Party planned at Gulick Park on income tax day

A Tea Party is being planned for April 15 (income tax day) to be held at noon at Gulick Park sponsored by the High Plains Constitutional Society.

This is the second annual Tea Party, and Ken Klemm who helped organize the first one last year said the event, "will be held for citizens who are disgusted with government's free-spending, irresponsible, unconstitutional and heavy-handed ways."

He said the Tea Party's have become a nationwide phenomena and provide a forum for peaceful, law-abiding citizens to express their concern and disapproval with our governments actions.

"All citizens are welcome to come and participate," he said. "Bring your sign and show Washington just how out of touch they are with real America."

Klemm said the High Plains Constitutional Society is a non-partisan group of like-minded citizens who are deeply concerned about the decline of America.

"We believe many of our current federal, state and local governments policies have greatly infringed upon our rights," he said. "We support our Constitution as envisioned by its authors and we feel adhering to the Constitution is the best hope for regenerating America. We seek to foster opportunities to learn, teach and share its precepts with others and in so doing empower Americans to reclaim the unalienable rights and freedoms given to all people by our Creator."

Call Klemm for more information at (785) 899-5804.

Waterline project on track

Workers took a short break as they worked on the waterline to bring water from several city wells to the central collection point on Kansas Ave. The crew has completed the work at Cattletrail Ave. and 17th Street, and are working along Cattletrail and are getting the line buried from Kansas Ave. down to 10th. A major line will run across the city on 10th, and that will be a tough project with several blocks that will have to be bored underground or have the sidewalks torn out and replaced.

Photo by Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News



corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

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Goodland man honored with Presidential volunteer award

A Goodland man has been honored with presentation of the Presidential Volunteer Service Award for his service in support of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

The Kansas Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), an agency of the Department of Defense, honored David Daniels, city commissioner and area representative, with the Presidential Volunteer Service Gold Award in recognition of his support of the Guard and Reserve mission.

Mick Allen Kansas chairman said, "The Presidential Volunteer Service Award was established seven years ago to recognize the valuable contributions volunteers are making in our communities and encourage more people to serve."

"The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation

created the President's Volunteer Service Award program as a way to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service."

Recognizing and honoring volunteers sets a standard for service, encourages a sustained commitment to civic participation, and inspires others to make service a central part of their lives, Allen said. The Volunteer Service Award recognizes individuals, families, and groups who have achieved a certain standard — measured by the number of hours of service over a 12-month period or cumulative hours earned over the course of a lifetime. For adults the award levels are Gold Award — 500 hours or more; Silver Award — 250 to 499 hours; and Bronze Award — 1 to 249 hours.



Daniels

The 1.3 million members of the National Guard and Reserve continue to perform an increasing number of unique missions within America's borders and beyond, Allen said. ESGR will continue to be the resource for the employers of citizen warriors to recognize outstanding support, increase awareness of the law and resolve conflict through mediation.

More information about ESGR Employer Outreach Programs and volunteer opportunities is available at www.esgr.mil, or by contacting Fred Waller, Kansas executive director, fred.waller@us.army.mil (785) 217-4828.

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