



By Jan Rahn

Managing Editor

A new local author whose pen name is BJ Wolfe was honored at a book signing at Hastings Memorial Library in Grant last Thursday afternoon.

The first-time novelist, Barb Kirkpatrick of Grant, signed several of her new western novel books, “Whisper Upon The Wind,” and enjoyed visiting and sharing refreshments. Her publisher, Linda Young of MaxQ Enterprises LLC, was also present.

“The book signing went well,” said Young. “We had about 30 people come enjoy cake and talk with Barbara about her novel.”

The new novel is set in the late 1860s in Kansas—Over 150 years ago, the first brave travelers made their journey to Santa Fe, through the Cimarron.

For each and every wagon there is a story to tell. This is just one of them.



The Santa Fe Trail began in Missouri, crossed Kansas and depending upon which route the wagon train chose to travel, could cut across Oklahoma or Colorado.

Regardless of the route chosen, the trail was almost 1,000 miles long.

Life on the Kansas prairie during the late 1860s was filled with peril. Indians felt betrayed by broken treaties. Especially Satanta, a Kiowa War Chief, known as White Bear. Satanta was especially unforgiving and his retaliation for treachery was swift and unrelenting.

Today, a lonely traveler might hear in the dark of night, the crackling of whips and the rumbling wheels of the great ghost trains.

Perhaps they might also hear the cries of the coyote, the braying of mules and the sounds of weary travelers on the dusty floor of the desert.

The wagons have vanished and the people turned to dust. Are the memories also gone or do they remain with us still, as a gentle whisper upon the wind?

Kirkpatrick is working on her second novel, also a western.

MaxQ has begun to sell E-books through Amazon.com, and books will be available on other e-readers soon.

“It’s great to have the opportunity to bring a talented writer to the reading public,” said Young. “Ms. Wolfe has a gift for telling a good story and we’re (MaxQ) thankful to the Hastings Memorial Library for allowing us to share her work with their patrons.”

MaxQ Enterprises is also the publisher for Dr. Paul Bottom’s second novel, “The Waiting Cross,” a Christian fiction, which will be available late spring under his pen name of P.F. Bottom.

A book signing for his new release will be held at the library, said Young.

MaxQ published a large print second edition of his first novel, “Forest of Fears,” in 2010. Young said it will be released on e-book in March.