

Reading, Writing, Teaching



Kristin Ganoung is pictured with her book and main character, George.

MARCIA HORA,
STORY & PICTURES

Teaching is her profession. Writing is her passion. Former Halsey elementary Kindergarten teacher, Kristin Ganoung, now has the best of both worlds. With the publication of her new book *George and the Stolen*

Sunny Spot, released in November of 2016, Ganoung has fulfilled her dream.

"It seems so long ago now," Ganoung said. "I started George in 1999. I've always been into writing, but I didn't have enough confidence to go ahead and become a published author until I took a class."

Ganoung had written an outline and three chapters of a book, forgot about it, and it ended up in a box under her bed. Then Nancy Wagner, a Nebraska author, who writes under the pen name, N.L. Sharp, came into the picture.

"Nancy got a group of us together to hold a class on writing children's books. That's when George got revived," Ganoung said. "I then wrote and rewrote him four or five times."

Ganoung attempted to publish George. After numerous queries and re-



A morning at the Sandhills Elementary School at Halsey gave Kristin Ganoung another opportunity to share her writing skills with students.

ceiving countless rejection letters, she gave up. "I guess I wasn't patient enough," Ganoung said. "That's when something really great happened. Nancy Wagner was starting up her own publishing company and she agreed to publish George."

What makes Ganoung the happiest about her book is children read it and get excited about it. Adults do too.

George is the name of the cat in charge of security on his human's farm. He thinks he has everything in his territory completely under control - until the day he finds a strange kitten napping in his spot on his porch. Even worse, this pipsqueak, Felix, has two doggy bodyguards who chase George away from his rightful spot and straight up a tree.

George vows to recover his spot, but one by one his plans are sabotaged by Felix and his hounds. The other farmyard animals can't seem to see through Felix's "poor little kitty" act and begin to fall under his spell. Even George's human is tricked by Felix's charm and threatens to relieve George of duty. George needs to think up a way to get rid of Felix and quickly - before Felix's takeover of the farm is complete. The book is filled with delightful characters that hold a reader's attention span.

After teaching for 21 years, Ganoung is now in her second year of "retire-

ment."

"I needed a break from teaching to do things with my family. I've got another George book in the works, and my many animals have been my inspiration. Some of the fellow students in the writing class get together several times a year to offer each other encouragement and I enjoy getting together with them."

Husband, Kris, is the music instructor at Sandhills High School at Dunning. They have two children, Miriam, a 7th grader, and Isaac, a sophomore at Sandhills.

Along with writing books, Ganoung has a real love for gardening and she has started the

process of marketing her produce.

"I love to work outside and take care of my animals. I also enjoy visiting schools and would like to have an opportunity to visit more schools and libraries."

Ganoung was at Halsey elementary, Thursday, April 13, where she gave a morning presentation on her book and provided writing instruction.

Students wrote newspaper articles and completed other activities during the session.

Upcoming venues include a presentation at the Logan County Library in Stapleton during their summer reading program.

Catlett New I&E Coordinator At ULNRD

The Upper Loup NRD is pleased to welcome Desarae Catlett as the new Information and Education Coordinator.

Desarae began her duties February 1, 2017. She graduated from Broken Bow High School in 2013. She studied at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture where she graduated in May of 2016 with an Applied Science Degree in Agronomy as well as Ag Business.

Desarae is currently working towards a Bachelors of Applied Science Degree online at the University of Nebraska- Lincoln.



COURTESY PHOTO
Desarae Catlett

Desarae and her fiancé live in Thedford.

Dunning is one of eight locations for annual "Walk For Life"

Dunning will be one of eight locations for the Women's Resource Center's "Walk For Life," set for Saturday and Sunday, May 6 and 7.

Dunning's walk will be held Sunday, May 7, with registration at 1:30 p.m. and the walk to begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Sandhills Community Church, 302 Bridge Street in Dunning.

Walks on May 6 include Stapleton, Gothenburg, North Platte, and Callaway.

Other walks scheduled on Sunday, May 7, include Arnold, Hershey and Wallace.

Bring completed pledge forms the day of the Walk. Billing will be handled by the Women's Resource Center. Treasure awards include free T-shirts, a draw string bag, water bottle, cooling towel and the top treasure award is Husker tickets.

The Women's Resource Center offers the following free services:

- Pregnancy Testing
- 24-hour Helpline
- Unlimited OB Ultrasounds
- Confidential Peer Counseling
- Learn and Earn Incentive Program
- Support for Family Members
- Medical Referrals
- Post-Abortion Support
- Clothing, Food, and Baby Furniture
- Fatherhood Initiative Program.



Walk for Life 2017
May 6 & 7

Please join us
and
"Walk For Life"

Notices

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- Thomas County Invitation To Bidders
- BOE Public Notice
- Village Of Thedford Board Proceedings
- Thomas County Commissioners Public Notice

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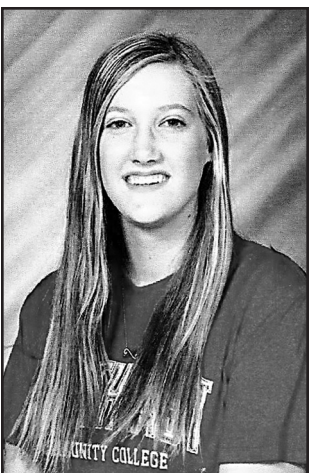
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Hunt selected to attend Cornhusker Girl's State

Michelle Hunt, a junior at Mullen High School, has been selected to attend American Legion Auxiliary Cornhusker Girls State and represent American Legion Auxiliary Steidley-Kayton Unit #230 of Thedford. Hannah Higgins was unable to attend and Michelle is the alternate for the Mullen unit.

Hunt will study local, county and state government processes in this nonpartisan political learning experience. Every spring, the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Program provides approximately 25,000 young women with a hands-on educational opportunity designed to instruct tomorrow's leaders in the privileges and duties of responsible citizenship.

Delegates receive special



COURTESY PHOTO
Michelle Hunt

instruction in parliamentary procedure and organize themselves into two mythical political parties. They then campaign, hold rallies, debate and ultimately vote to elect city, county and state officials. Once elected to office, del-

egates are sworn in and perform their prescribed duties. Citizens not elected to office are given appointments and visit the offices of their elected or appointed counterparts in actual state, county and city government.

Two outstanding citizens, known as "senators," are selected at each of the 49 Girls State sessions held across the country to represent their state at American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation held in Washington, D.C. in July.

Founded in 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary is the world's largest patriotic women's service organization. With a membership of nearly 850,000, local

Auxiliary units have a strong presence in more than 9,500 communities nationwide.