

## LANGE FROM PAGE 22

Lange said, some schools have adopted “Butter” as part of its curriculum.

“I write a lot of contemporary young adult literature but I primarily read fantasy and paranormal, but it’s actually more in line with my reading taste than what in the past had been my writing taste,” Lange said of the new book.

“Truly, they spend so much of the book as humans navigating high school that it feels very much in my same kind of genre,” she continued. “But the world-building was different. There’s a lot involved in trying to come up with what is vampire lore and how do they fit into the world as we know it. And so that was challenging and really fun to do.”

Lange said that while she likes the grittier vampire works, “Mere Mortals” is more influenced by the TV hit of a quarter century ago, “Buffy the Vampire Slayer,” which won a huge following for its campy horror, sci fi and young adult themes.

Her novel took some time to come to fruition.

“Everybody’s heard a story of the human turned into a vampire and figuring out their new immortality,” Lange explained. “I was struck one day with the question, ‘well, what if a vampire was turned back into a human and had to struggle with their new mortality?’



“Mere Mortals,” which Erin Jade Lange just released yesterday, is about two teenage vampires who lose their immortality. (David Minton/AFN Staff Photographer)

“And that question kind of cracked open this idea for a book,” she continued. “The first time I had the idea for it was like a good eight, nine years ago. And at that time, vampires had still been such a glut in the market that a lot of publishers weren’t interested in seeing new vampire books from people who weren’t already established paranormal authors. So, I kind of tucked it away for a while, published a couple other books in the meantime, and just worked on it in fits

and starts whenever I was between projects, until I finally was like, ‘I’m going to finish this now.’

“And so it took me about a year off and on writing to finish it. And then I thought, ‘Nobody’s going to probably buy it. Because I don’t know if vampires are back...But I’ll just see what happens.’ And sure enough, it

sold and it found a really good home with HarperCollins. And I’m so excited. I honestly wrote this one for fun for me.”

Believing that the pandemic has altered the nature of book launches, Lange has planned a different kind of public celebration of her latest effort.

At 6 p.m. Oct. 14 at Changing Hands Bookstore in the Tempe Square Shopping Center, 6428 S. McClintock Drive on the southwest corner of McClintock and Guadalupe Road, Tempe, she’ll be joined by two other powerhouse young adult authors from Gilbert – New York Times best-selling novelist Suzanne Young and acclaimed author Kelly deVos (Go Hunt Me).

Just in time for Halloween, the three young adult authors will discuss how their latest books provide a contemporary take on classic vampire tales.

“Guests should brush up on their vampire trivia and prepare for fun and games,” Changing Hands advises and Lange said she and the other two authors will be devoting their talk pretty much exclusively to the fiction world’s legendary bloodsuckers.

Meantime, “Mere Mortals” is available in hardback and audiobook formats. ■

## WALK FROM PAGE 22

other assistance to needy families in the school district.

Hansen said that besides raising funds, the group also wants to raise awareness of hunger.

While the 1-mile walk is made for supporters who may not have the stamina for the longer walk, the Esperanza Lutheran team notes that 3.4 miles “is the average round-trip distance women and children in the developing world walk for water.”

The national CROP Hunger Walk group says that in some countries, the walk for food and water can extend nearly twice as long.

Hence, they say, the walk “shows solidarity with the millions who walk miles every day in search of food and water.”

The national effort raises more than \$6 million annually that funds a variety of efforts, including helping communities increase access to safe drinking water, providing tools, training and even

livestock to help families become self-sustaining.

Money has helped families get seedlings to build community nurseries and even beekeeper suits for people to tend hives and collect honey.

While the walk is still more than six weeks away, Hansen said it’s not too early to line up walkers as well as sponsors.

So far, businesses that have signed up in support of the walk include Craig Peck REMAX Foothills Trusted Broker, PostNet, Wagner Eyecare Associates, Dental by Design and Hanson Consulting Engineers.

Businesses wanting to sign on as supporters – as well as walkers and people who simply want to donate to the cause – can go to [events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/event/phoenixaz](https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/event/phoenixaz).

The team said people can register as individuals or a group. Esperanza Pastor Annemarie Burke said people with questions can contact [CROP.hunger.walk@my-esperanza.org](mailto:CROP.hunger.walk@my-esperanza.org) or call the church office at 480-759-1515. ■



# TILE ROOFING SPECIALISTS

Flat and Foam Roof Experts!




**FREE ESTIMATES 602-736-3019**

**[desertsandscontracting.com](https://desertsandscontracting.com)**

**FLAT ROOFS | SHINGLES | TEAR OFFS | NEW ROOFS | REPAIRS**  
**TILE UNDERLAYMENT | TILE REPAIR | LEADERS | COPPER**  
**ALUMINUM COATINGS | GUTTERS | SKYLIGHTS**  
**10% OFF COMPLETE UNDERLAYMENT**



**DESERT SANDS CONTRACTING**

Commercial & Residential | Family Owned & Operated  
 AZROC #283571 | CONTRACTOR LIC. AZROC #312804 CLASS CR4  
 FULLY INSURED