

Former Norton resident honored as Teacher of the Year

By Samar Fay
The Glasgow Courier

Glasgow's high school and middle school music teacher, Dr. Brad Persinger, has been honored as the VFW Montana Teacher of the Year. The award was publicly presented by the VFW's Art Widhalm at this year's Memorial Day ceremony.

"Brad epitomizes the definition of citizenship," then-GHS Principal Marj Markle said in her letter of nomination. "No matter what day Veterans Day or Memorial Day fall, Brad is there to volunteer his time and wonderful music ability at their functions."

After Persinger has directed the GHS Band at a patriotic ceremony, he often finishes the event with a haunting rendition of "Taps," either solo or with another trumpet.

Persinger approaches his teaching with enthusiasm and passion, Markle said. At the high school, he leads the Scottie Band, the Concert Choir, the Swing Choir, the Pep Band, the Junior High Band and the Junior High Concert Choir. This year he added the Sixth Grade Band

to his list, stepping up when there was a staff shortage.

He works with students who want to compete at district and state music festivals. With his knowledge, he enables students to choose music that is appropriate for them and the contest. He added classes in guitar and jazz band when students showed an interest.

When the Scottie band needed to replace their worn uniforms, Persinger campaigned to raise money for new kilts.

In addition to his school duties, Persinger performs in and co-directs the Scobey Prairie Symphonette and performs in the Scobey Big Band. He also volunteers for the Fort Peck Summer Theatre, groups in Great Falls and high school plays. He sings in local church choirs and Christmas programs.

Persinger began his career in Kansas in 1989, teaching both instrumental and vocal music to middle school through high school students for three years. He taught a year in Colorado, then went back to college full-time to earn his doctorate from the University of Northern Colorado. In 1998 he moved to

Montana to teach K-12 music in Stanford for three years. He has been in the Glasgow School District since 2001.

Fellow music teachers in the school district and students were among those writing glowing letters of recommendation for Persinger, always mentioning his readiness to help others.

Melissa Unger, who played in his band for five years and is now studying music at the University of Montana wrote, "Mr. Persinger has always encouraged us to play in the band at our local Memorial and Veterans Day services. He is very passionate about the band engaging in these services. Seeing how he committed himself to practice with us select few, we were encouraged to participate. He never forced us to attend the ceremonies, but I noticed each year our numbers increased. His enthusiasm for supporting veterans was apparent and people in the community would always thank him for bringing the band."

Brad is the son of Gordon and Janice Persinger of Norton.



Dr. Brad Persinger receives the VFW Montana Teacher of the Year award from Art Widhalm at the Memorial Day ceremony in Glasgow.

—Photo courtesy of Samar Fay/The Glasgow Courier

COLLEGE NOTES

The National FFA Foundation awarded \$137,000 in scholarships to members across the state of Kansas. Members were recognized for their scholarship awards during the third session of the 85th Kansas FFA Convention on May 30.

The National Foundation offers approximately \$2 million, generously donated by numerous sponsors, to FFA members across the nation every year. The awards range from \$1,000

to \$5,000 for to assist with their education at a two-year or four-year institution.

This year's recipients are: from Norton: Dylan Sprigg, Wyatt Wentz;

The Kansas FFA Association is a statewide organization of 8,343 agricultural education students in 162 chapters in every corner of Kansas. It is part of the National FFA Organization, a national youth organization of 557,318 student mem-

bers preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture with 7,498 local chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Our mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ksffa.org for more information.

second-year student majoring in ag production systems and agribusiness management systems. The Fields are members of Ag Valley Co-op in Edison.

and the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) at Curtis.

The recipient of a \$600 scholarship at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture at Curtis is Daniel Field, son of Dan and Debbie Field of Almena. He is a

Ventriloquist and illusionist coming to Norton

Ventriloquist and illusionist Kevin Horner will be in Norton on June 27. He will present his summer show, "Can You Dig It? I Can Dig It!," at 1:30 p.m., June 27, in the Norton Recreation Commission Gym. This year Australian wanna-be Millard Knockbar (Kevin) will make an appearance with Matilda, the six-foot ostrich (puppet). Millard will teach everyone not

to bury their heads in the sand when it comes to reading. Millard's intentions are admirable, but Matilda is not so compliant to his wishes. Joining Millard and Matilda are Sheldon, the magical turtle (puppet), Cocanuts, the Spanish-speaking gorilla (puppet) and Twinkie, the rabbit (puppet). Kevin with his puppets, plus illusions, means a lot of fun for kids and adults of

all ages.

This show is presented by the Norton Public Library summer reading program, "Dig into Reading," and sponsored by the Norton Lions Club and the Northwest Kansas Library System. There are no morning children's activities planned at the library that day.

Summer program opportunities available for girls

Girls Scouts of Kansas Heartland and Sternberg Museum of Natural History are teaming up to offer unique summer program opportunities for girls. June 25 and 26 is the Environmental FUNDamentals day camp where girls will climb, dig, run and play nature's way. Girls will explore the difference between tame and wild environments. The camp lasts from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day and is open to girls who have just completed kindergarten or first grade.

be held on July 19 through July 20. Girls who have completed 4th or 5th grade are encouraged to attend. They will enjoy the overnight campout on the Cretaceous seafloor. Hunt for the prehistoric carnivores of Kansas and experience an introduction to basic paleontology and collections. This camp runs from 6 p.m. to 10 a.m.

Early Expeditions- Ellis County is a program where girls who have completed 2nd and 3rd grade can go wild and discover life. Navigate Ellis Coun-

ty's abundant habitats and learn the basics of science observation, identification, interaction and collection. The day camp is held July 23, 24, and 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily.

All camps offered through this partnership are available for registration through the Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland for a fee. For more information on any of these camps or to get a girl registered, call Jennifer Amrein at 785-625-5671.

Public urged to take precautions against West Nile Virus

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Division of Public Health has seen a substantial increase in the number of mosquitoes within the past week. These mosquitoes can potentially spread West Nile virus.

In 2012, there were 57 cases of West Nile virus in the state, the most cases since the virus first made its way into Kansas in 2002. There are currently no reported cases of West Nile virus in 2013. In addition to tracking cases of human illnesses caused by West Nile virus, KDHE assesses the potential for West Nile virus by conducting limited mosquito surveillance, including laboratory testing.

Symptoms of West Nile virus infection range from a slight

headache and low-grade fever to swelling of the brain or brain tissue and, in rare cases, death. People who have had West Nile virus before are considered immune.

KDHE recommends the following precautions to protect against West Nile virus:

*When you are outdoors, use insect repellent containing an EPA-registered active ingredient on skin and clothing, including DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535. Follow the directions on the package.

*Many mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn. Be sure to use insect repellent and wear long sleeves and pants at these times or consider staying indoors during these hours.

*Make sure doors and win-

dows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears. Try to keep doors and windows shut, especially at night.

*Get rid of mosquito breeding sites by emptying standing water from flower pots, buckets and barrels. Change the water in outdoor pet dishes and replace the water in bird baths weekly. Drill holes in tire swings so water drains out. Keep children's wading pools empty and on their sides when they aren't being used.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides the following web page with additional information about West Nile Virus and preventing mosquito bites: www.cdc.gov/features/StopMosquitoes/.

A crowning achievement for rural Kansas

By Ron Wilson

Huck Boyd Institute

It's the opening ceremony of the Pan American Games. Down the street comes a special dignitary: the Queen of England in a vintage 1951 Cadillac limousine. When that car was rebuilt, where do you suppose they found the necessary expertise? Would you believe, at a shop in the middle of rural Kansas? Thanks to Michelle Tessaro of KCLY radio for this Kansas Profile story idea.

Randy Rundle is owner of Fifth Avenue Antique Auto Parts in Clay Center. His unique auto shop is helping power antique vehicles that travel coast to coast, and even carry the Queen.

At age twelve, Randy became fascinated with antique Chevy trucks. While in school, he started buying, repairing, and selling these vehicles.

These trucks used a six-volt electrical system which would later be replaced by a twelve-volt alternator system in newer models built by the car-makers. Unfortunately those alternators only worked on the twelve-volt system, not the older models.

"I decided all of those six-volt vehicles needed fixing and I was just the guy to do it," Randy said.

After lots of research and tinkering in the shop, he devised a reliable six-volt alternator system which could successfully replace the older style system. In 1987, Randy opened Fifth Avenue Antique Auto Parts to market these products in his hometown of Clay Center. His storefront displays an actual front end of a yellow 1949 Chevrolet - with working headlights and auto horn!

To promote his new six-volt alternator, Randy got involved with the Great Race, an annual vintage car rally in which pre-1940 cars are driven 4,500 miles across the United States in just two weeks time. Of course, those cars used the old six-volt system.

Randy got a driver to try his new alternator and the, um, race was on. In 1991, Fifth Avenue Antique Auto Parts provided a New York driver and his 1929 Dodge Sport Roadster with Randy's alternator. That car won the Great Race in 1993. Having proven his six-volt alternator, Randy went on to solve cooling and fuel-related problems at the request of other Great Race teams. Since then, Randy has developed more than 40 specialized products to make all types of antique vehicles more reliable and fun to drive.

Watching the Great Race was a Hollywood movie director. He ended up using Randy's improvements for antique cars in movies such as Devil in a Blue Dress, Lolita, LA Confidential and Indiana Jones.

Another spectator at the Great Race was a representative of the British Crown. Randy got a

call from someone identifying himself as the Royal Minister of Transportation, stating that he was requesting Randy's services on behalf of the Queen of England. "Yeah, right," Randy thought. "Which one of my buddies put this guy up to this?"

But the call was for real. As part of the Queen's participation in the 48th anniversary of the Pan American Games opening ceremony, she wanted to ride in the same 1951 Cadillac limousine in which she had ridden with her mother at the very first opening ceremony. Randy helped restore and rebuild this automobile in which the Queen successfully took her ride. He would later receive a note from the Queen on palace stationery, thanking Randy for his services to the Royal Family.

In 2012, the owner of an orange grove in California had a problem with the engines on his wind machines which are used to protect the oranges from winter frost. The repair for those engines was provided by Fifth

Avenue Antique Auto Parts.

Now Randy is celebrating 25 years in business. He has customers in all 50 states, every Canadian province and sixteen foreign countries.

That's a remarkable accomplishment for a business in the rural community of Clay Center, population 4,525 people. Now, that's rural.

For more information, go to www.fifthaveinternetgarage.com.

It's time to leave the Queen of England and the royal car which was restored with help from a business in the middle of Kansas. We commend Randy Rundle of Fifth Avenue Antique Auto Parts for making a difference with his expertise and innovation. For rural Kansas, it's a crowning achievement.



904 Crestview



Beautiful Home for Sale

This spacious split level home is a must see. It has 3 bedrooms, three baths, and a spacious fenced in back yard. All new windows installed in 2011 along with many other improvements make this property one of a kind.

\$169,000

Abby Rice, Norton Salesperson for Metcalf Real Estate
(785) 874-4774

Metcalf Real Estate- Kris Randel, Broker
201 North Penn

JUNIOR GOLF Starts Monday, July 1

Junior golf will start on Monday, July 1 with registration at 5:30 and begin at 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and runs July 1 - July 8 - July 15

July 22 will highlight the year with a Pizza Party at 5:15, followed by a 9-hole golf tournament at 5:45 and a swimming party following golf

Cost this year is \$20.00 per participant aged 7 to 14. Registration this year will include a golf shirt. Come and learn the lifelong game of golf. Adults are welcome to come, watch, and help mentor the junior golfers

Pre-register for only \$20.00 by mailing it to: Tyler Rutherford, 1014 Truman Drive, Norton, KS 67654, or call 785-202-0214 with the name, age, and shirt size of the participant.

