

Flamenco guitarist to perform in Atwood

Ronald Radford, a flamenco guitar virtuoso whose performances have evoked standing ovations on four continents, will appear at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Rawlins County High School Auditorium.

A protégé of the legendary Carlos Montoya, Radford lived and traveled in Spain where he immersed himself in the music of the flamenco guitar masters, in addition to classical studies with Andres Segovia.

He is the only individual ever to be awarded a Fulbright scholarship in flamenco.

This gifted artist takes you beyond the usual guitar concert. Radford complements his technique with an illuminating narration which recreates the spirit and essence of this ancient folklore. He draws the audience into a world of sounds and feelings as he conjures up the soul-stirring laments and fiery Gypsy dance rhythms of flamenco – the heartbeat of Spain.

Radford's engaging stage manner along with the appealing music provides a performance that can be enjoyed by all.

The *New York Times* acclaimed his Carnegie Hall concert as "a winning, charming, informative and expert performance by a guitarist of talent and enthusiasm!" Of his expertise and personal style of performance the Fairfield, Iowa,



Ronald Radford

Daily Ledger wrote: "Radford has it all! His explanations made it simple enough to please the youngest or most untrained ear, technical enough to inspire guitar students in all phases of study, and so intimate and so profound an experience for the turned-on ones as to provide a bridge between worlds."

In addition to his program, Radford will conduct several school presentations for the two days following the performance.

Western Plains Arts Association is presenting Radford's program and will honor association season tickets as well as admission at the door of \$20 for adults or \$10 for students. Special prices of \$5 per student for groups of twenty or more will be honored if prior arrangement has been made.

Governor calls recent trip to Russia, Kazakhstan a success

Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback, Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Dale Rodman and beef producers from across the state are returning to Kansas from a 12-day trade mission to Russia and Kazakhstan. The tour focused on growing the market for Kansas beef genetics and agriculture products.

"This trip was a great opportunity to show other parts of the world what the Kansas cattle industry has to offer," Gov. Brownback said. "It was a successful trip that will prove to be very beneficial to the Kansas economy."

While in Russia, the group met with Russian Agriculture Minister Yelena Skrynnik, attended the Golden Autumn Livestock Exposition, visited with Russian beef producers about U.S. beef genetics and toured farms and ranches in the Tyumen region to see first-hand what Russian beef production looks like.

The delegation also traveled to Astana, Kazakhstan, for meetings about increasing agri-

cultural exports from Kansas to Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan is in the process of building the animal agriculture sector of their economy. In the last few years, they have been importing live registered Angus and Hereford cattle as seed stock to rebuild their animal herds. Most of these animals are being air freighted from the United States.

While in Kazakhstan, the group met with about 15 producers during a roundtable discussion hosted by the Kazakhstan Ministry of Agriculture. In addition, discussions regarding how Kansas and Kazakhstan can strengthen trade of livestock genetics, animal health products, feed ingredients and agricultural equipment were held with the Kazakhstan president, state secretary, first deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture.

The ambassador of Kazakhstan has been directed to work with the Kansas Department of Agriculture to determine an action plan for

increasing Kansas/Kazakhstan trade relations regarding agriculture.

"We've had great visits to Russia and Kazakhstan including productive conversations about expanding agriculture trade to these countries with high-level officials," Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Dale Rodman said. "Additionally, the opportunity to visit ranches has furthered our understanding of how Kansas can best serve the beef industry in these countries through livestock genetics, equipment and feed ingredients."

This trip follows two Kansas Department of Commerce trips to Russia on behalf of Kansas ranchers in 2010. This is the State of Kansas' first trade mission trip to Kazakhstan in recent years.

This trip was made possible by U.S. Department of Agriculture Market Access Program funding through U.S. Livestock Genetic Export. For information go to www.uslge.org.

Family calls 911 after getting lost in maze

DANVERS, Mass. (AP) – Authorities in Massachusetts say a family that got lost in a seven-acre corn maze called 911 for help, apparently taking advantage of the police department's motto that says "We Want To Be Bothered."

The maze at Connors Farm in Danvers has pathways totaling seven miles long and can take up to an hour to navigate.

A police officer and his dog entered the maze with a farm manager on Columbus Day to search for the disoriented father, mother and two children, including a three-week-old infant. The family didn't realize they had almost made their way out and were just 25 feet from the street.

It took the search party about 10

minutes to find the family. They were helped by a police dispatcher who stayed on the phone with the caller and asked the couple to yell for help to enable those looking for them to identify their location.

"Never again!" the woman is heard telling the dispatcher on police tapes. "We thought this would be fun, instead it's a nightmare."

The family called police for help after sunset, shortly after the farm's closing time.

"Hi I just called, I'm still stuck at Connor's Farms, I don't see anybody I'm really scared, it's really dark and we've got a three-week-old baby with us," the woman is heard on police tapes telling the dispatcher.

Farm Manager Rich Potter

said farm workers had not even checked to see if visitors were still making their way through the maze.

Potter said he only became aware that the family was lost in the maze when a police cruiser pulled up and an officer told him that some people had called for help.

It was not clear how long the family had been wandering through the long corn stalks before they called police, farm owner Bob Connors said.

"We were out in the parking lot and we didn't hear them, so they couldn't have been there too long – I think they got frustrated and called (police) on their own," Connors said. "They could see the

street lights, they could hear the cars, they couldn't find their way out."

"We don't want to see anybody get lost and panic and call 911," Connors said. "We constructed the maze for people to get lost and have fun, and 99.9 percent of people do have fun getting lost – but it's unfortunate that this party did get lost, it's got to be a positive family experience, that's our goal."

The maze has several guide posts with clues and posters instructing visitors to send text messages to get additional guidance to help them make their way out.

"There is no way anybody should be stuck on that maze for any reason," Connors said.

K-State farm program to teach management

Agricultural producers and agribusiness professionals seeking ways to become better managers are encouraged to enroll in the upcoming Management, Analysis and Strategic Thinking program. The program, held by Kansas State University's Department of Agricultural Economics, kicks off with a two day on-campus session Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 15-16.

The program combines information and decision-making tools with online learning to help farmer improve management skills.

The program includes two on-campus sessions and online learning modules addressing topics such as land, machinery, financial analysis, human resources, tax and policy, risk management and marketing. The program con-

cludes with a second on-campus visit Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 21-22.

Past participants include producers from across the U.S. representing diverse agricultural backgrounds, from cow-calf producers and diversified crop farmers to land owners and dairy managers.

Tuition costs \$1,250 per person or \$1,100 per person if two or more participate from the same business. Information is available at www.agmanager.info/MAST or by contacting Shannon Krueger at (785) 532-6994 or shannon@agecon.ksu.edu.

Farm Credit Associations of Kansas are offering partial scholarships for their members. Information is available by contacting a local Farm Credit Association office or Krueger.

Free funerals may lead to more organ donations

By Maria Cheng

AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) – Offering free funerals to people who donate kidneys, livers and other organs could help boost donation rates, an influential British medical ethics group says.

In a set of recommendations published last Monday, the Nuffield Council listed various ways to encourage people to donate body parts, including organs, blood, eggs and sperm.

It suggested that Britain's health system test the idea of paying for the funerals of people who sign up to the national organ donor register and then die after donating a body part. The free funerals would not be available to living donors, such as people who voluntarily give up a kidney, bone marrow, or liver.

"We have ruled out giving people a direct financial incentive to donate," said Keith Rigg,

a transplant surgeon at Nottingham University Hospital and an author of the report.

Rigg told reporters Monday that the free funeral idea would not benefit the donor, but might offer surviving relatives help at a difficult time. He said it was similar to what's done in medical schools, which often cover the burial or cremation costs of people who donate their bodies for anatomy and other classes.

While there are 18 million people in the U.K. signed up to donate organs, only about 1,000 people a year actually do so, mostly because few die in circumstances that allow their organs to be donated. Britain has among the lowest rates of organ donation in Europe and half the rate of the U.S.

Rigg said the funerals proposal should be tested first to see if it would actually increase organ donation rates, and that experts hadn't set a limit on the amount of money families

would get for funeral expenses.

Other experts weren't sure it would work.

"Associating free funerals with organ donation is an odd reward," said Art Caplan, director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania. "It reminds people of how they get to be an organ donor and may make them nervous."

Caplan said educating the public about the need for organ donation would be a better way to convince more people to donate.

John Harris, a bioethics professor at the University of Manchester, described the free funerals offer as "macabre" and said more people would sign up to donate if offered more direct incentives, such as cash.

"We shouldn't be hung up on this idea that altruism and recompense are mutually exclusive," he said. "It is not wrong to try to influence people to do good."

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