



# Consider hosting an exchange student

John and Wendy Halbert, Glenwood Rotarians, have a very long and positive background in hosting exchange students – in fact, they have hosted 36 times – no, you read that correctly – 36 times!

Their current boy is from Bolivia and by all accounts he is having the best of times at Glenwood High, and the Halberts are really having a super experience hosting him.

My wife and I have been a busy host family also, having enjoyed 12 full-year and 18 summer program or other shorter stay kids over the past three decades.

I met John and Wendy at my first Rotary meeting here in Glenwood, having transferred from my club in Ohio. I was thrilled to find out Glenwood High, besides hosting three current exchange kids, have a very busy mentoring program for not only the high school, but continuing down to junior high and

## Food For Thought



**DENNIS KELLY**  
GUEST COLUMNIST

grade school youth – a wonderful thing locally is that even with so many kids asking for a mentor, with some 47 in the program at this time, there are barely enough adults to step up and volunteer.

I had been volunteering back in Ohio and it was something I greatly looked forward to each week – volunteering an hour of my time, to perhaps make a big difference in the outlook and future of a young person.

Of course, hosting a young person for a year, and treating them as

your own child and with the responsibility that entails, has been wildly rewarding for us. Their parents back home in Brazil, Germany, Sweden, France, Spain, or Colombia, become like brothers and sisters to my wife and I and when the opportunities arise, we travel to see them and they come to the USA. Not only that, the kids return often and my wife and I are still “mom” and “dad” to them after all these years. We delight in keeping up with their education, careers, marriages, and children, and of course, their successes and travails also. You bond with those who come into your lives in such a personal way and we have never had a kid we would not keep if given the option.

All that said, you don’t know if it’s for you until you try it. We first hosted when we had boys of our own still in high school, but later found that surely wasn’t necessary as exchange kids are

usually pretty special at school, and they attract many friends (with cars) to whisk them around to classes, sports practices and games and every other event in a teenager’s busy life. We are there, of course, for their performances on stage and on the sports fields and take great pride in their accomplishments.

Of course, people will say “is Felipe your grandson?”. A natural question for folks our age, as their parents can sometimes be young enough to be our own kids. Our own boys, now 43 and 46, enjoy the kids also and so do our grandchildren. Our young 6-year-old granddaughter can proudly name off her last four “big brothers” with love and affection. They have all spoiled her rotten.

Is hosting for you? Why not find out by offering to mentor a young person – one hour a week might just change your life! I know it has changed mine.



Community Calendar

**13 December**  
6:30 a.m., Red Oak Optimists meeting, Red Coach Inn and Restaurant.  
11 a.m.-5 p.m., Bloodmobile, First Presbyterian Church, 907 Grove Ave., Corning.  
3-5:30 p.m., Christ's Cupboard, Food Pantry and Clothing Cupboard, 604 4th St.  
4 p.m., Men's Night Out, shop downtown merchants.  
5-6 p.m., Overeaters Anonymous, United Methodist Church, 200 Church St., Shenandoah. Contact Sara W. at 712-215-1500.  
6:30 p.m., Montgomery County Shooting Sports meeting, Anderson Conservation Building, 2059 190th St.  
7-10 p.m., Dance to Gaylin Sudek Orchestra at The Center, 714 S. Main St., Council Bluffs, \$5/members, \$10/non-members. 712-323-5995.

**14 December**  
10-11:30 a.m., Immunization Clinic for Montgomery County Public Health, 1109 Highland Ave.  
4 p.m., Community Prayer Time, Fountain Square Park. Call Bonnie at 623-4759.  
5:30-7 p.m., Community Soup

Kitchen, Red Oak Presbyterian Church, 511 Coolbaugh St.  
7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.

**15 December**  
9:30-11 a.m., Friendship Friday, Stanton Care Center.  
10 a.m., Community Coffee, Arlington Place.  
10:15 a.m., Library story time, "Trees," Red Oak Public Library, 400 N. 2nd St.  
5:30 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.  
6:30 p.m., Narcotics Anonymous, First Baptist Church, 403 N. 3rd St.  
7 p.m., "The Mountain Between Us," Red Oak Grand Theatre.

**16 December**  
8 a.m.-2 p.m., Walnut Creek Acres Open House, ROCIA office.  
9-11 a.m., Santa House open, Corning.  
10 a.m.-2 p.m., Corning Holiday Headquarters.  
2-5 p.m., Opry Show, country music and dancing with Brooke Turner, Corning Opera House.  
5 p.m., Red Oak Middle and High

School Winter Music Extravaganza, ROCHS auditorium, cafeteria, gym.  
7 p.m., "The Mountain Between Us," Red Oak Grand Theatre.  
7:30 p.m., "Christmas with the Annie Moses Band," Iowa Western Community College Arts Center.

**17 December**  
10 a.m., "It's Christmas Time" holiday musical. Free soup luncheon following, Hope for Life Christian Church.  
10:45 a.m., "Come to Bethlehem and See!" children's Christmas program. Coffee and cookie fellowship before and after program. Evangelical Covenant Church, 308 Eastern Ave., Stanton.  
2 p.m. and 7 p.m., "The Mountain Between Us," Red Oak Grand Theatre.  
5:30 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.

**18 December**  
11 a.m.-1 p.m., Pregnancy Center of Southwest Iowa, open, 101 E. Reed St.  
Noon, Kiwanis meeting, Pizza Ranch.  
Noon, ROCIA Housing/ Property

Committee meeting, ROCIA office.  
7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.

**19 December**  
8:30 a.m., Montgomery County Supervisors, Courthouse.  
Noon, Rotary Club meeting, Red Coach Inn and Restaurant.  
Noon-5 p.m., Food Pantry, First Baptist Church, 406 N. 3rd St., 712-621-1644.  
5:30-8 p.m., Southwest Iowa Free Medical Clinic, 406 N. 3rd St.  
5:30-8 p.m., Pregnancy Center of Southwest Iowa, open, 101 E. Reed St.  
5:30 p.m., Overeaters Anonymous, Faith Community Church, 2701 N. 8th St.  
6-7 p.m., Moms Off Meth support group, Faith Community Church, 2701 N. 8th St.  
6:30 p.m., Early-Bird Bingo, 7 p.m., Regular Bingo, Red Oak Eagles, 200 E. Washington.  
6:30 p.m., Celebrate Recovery, Advent Christian Church, 300 S. 2nd Ave., Villisca.  
7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.



## Monday Club wreath winners announced Dec. 4

Jackie Schmid, President

The Monday Club of Red Oak's fourth annual wreath raffle for 2017 was successfully concluded Monday, Dec. 4, at the Wilson Performing Arts Center. Twenty-four wreaths were donated by local businesses and won by 24 area residents.

Every wreath was as individual as the giver and absolutely outstanding in design. This year we included a little contest for the most votes cast by residents and acknowledged that winner during intermission of the group "Reconciled!" That award was received by the Rotary Club of Red Oak for a wreath designed and made by Brenda Rieken.

All proceeds from the wreath raffle go to the Monday Club scholarship fund. Scholarship recipients have been awarded \$8,000 in the past two years.

Information about the scholarship and a copy of the application may be found on our Facebook page, Monday Club of Red Oak, Ia., at any of the area colleges or by contacting Vicki Giltner at 712-621-2526.

This year more than 500 tickets were entered, and winners were also announced on Dec. 4. Winners were: Marla McAlpin, Villisca; Michelle Schimmer,

Omaha; Sheila Mainquist, Red Oak; Rubey Realty, Red Oak; Faye Brandstetter, Red Oak; Anita Reich, Red Oak; Pam Jones, Red Oak; Mary Fields, Red Oak; Kathy Barmann, Red Oak; Laura Prien; Larry Brandstetter, Red Oak; Sarah Davis, Glenwood; Jean Davidson, Red

Oak; Joan Smith, Red Oak; Kara Sherman, Red Oak; Ericka Foos, Omaha; Jean Friesen, Red Oak; Charla Schmid, Red Oak; Peg Swanson, Red Oak; Tom Pratt, Red Oak; Ellorree Wilson, Henderson; Deanna Prien, Red Oak; Connie McCunn, Red Oak.

We could not have this successful event without the busi-

nesses and community support that we receive. The Monday Club of Red Oak has been continuously active since 1895. The main goal for the original members was to educate themselves with wisdom they shared with each other. The scholarship fund is a tribute to those women.



Jackie Schmid, president of the Monday Club of Red Oak, shows off the winning vote-getter in the 2017 annual wreath raffle. The wreath was designed and donated by Brenda Rieken of the Rotary Club of Red Oak and won by Mary Fields of Red Oak. (submitted photo)

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## Ryan Waters and Digital Photography at Thayer Central School

Ryan Waters is the Jr-Sr High Art teacher for Thayer Central. He teaches digital art, animation, painting, drawing, pottery, etc. Mr. Waters has been teaching UNL, and then his Master's Degree from UNK. He taught at Lexington before coming to the Hebron area. His wife received a job offer to work at the Jefferson County Hospital and they made the move to the area. Natalie then decided to take a job at the Thayer County Hospital and then they purchased a small acreage outside of Hebron. His wife, Natalie, is the daughter of Jack and Sandy Waite of Deshler.

The Rustler heard about Mr. Waters through the Coffee Talk on Wednesday mornings at D's Daylight Donuts. The group was quite impressed with the project that four teachers are working on. The project is running digital ads on a big screen 86" TV in the Basketball Gym, dur-

ing the games. The TV is replacing a digital sign that is outdated. The TV was donated by the Hebron Rotary Club.

The shop class is involved by building a case around the TV with a non-breakable screen. The business class taught by Mr. Jones, goes out and sells the ads to the local busi-

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nesses. Each business student has their own clients

### Ryan Waters

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that they service. They are responsible for selling the ad, getting the ad to production and then getting the ad Ok'd to be publicized. The digital art class is responsible for making the ad either digital, business card size, etc. If photography is needed, another teacher comes in to help.

This is all financed through Mr. Waters and Mrs. Lanik taking pictures for the school. Mr. Waters takes the individual school photos and the school receives a percentage of those profits. Mrs. Lanik takes the sports pictures. She works with a group out of Kansas. She uploads the pictures taken at the games to the company and then parents can purchase these pictures for a fee. Any profit is directed to the Appley Computer Center. Since the two teachers cannot double dip, all the money earned from the photography is funneled back to the Appley Computer Center. The school does match a percent-

age of what is earned to keep the center with the best of everything.

The Appley Computer Center has 9 apple computers plus a smaller flat screen TV in it. There is also a room attached where they do the photography for the digital art. The computers are valued at \$2500 per computer plus they have 7-8 digital cameras valued at about \$500 per camera and a super camera valued at \$2000. Plus, the lab buys the Adobe Software subscription for \$1200 for the computers. They have approximately \$30,000 wrapped up in this project, for the students to use their talents to the max.

The question was asked if students are using the information learned in this lab later in a professional experience. Students are going into the communications field, graphic design, and other computer software fields. Two students are using these skills, one worked with Husker Vision and the other

worked with the Kansas City Chiefs. They both are working together, and both live in the Omaha area, in a business they created.

Another question asked was how to run the animation on the big screen. Mr. Waters said he searched for software that could do everything he wanted for the project. He found a company in Omaha that had the software, and they were willing to sell the software to him for \$14,000, which was out of the price range. He then found a downloadable app from a local app store for very few dollars that could do most of what he wanted. He bought that for pennies, compared to buying the professional software. It was called a DJ's app.

Approximately 60 students take an art class of some kind at Thayer Central. This kind of experience is priceless. No dollar amount can be attached to the experience these students are learning from these teachers. Kudos to all involved with this project.