



## EDUCATION

## Exchange student needs a home

Jill Coppler

(Updated: Thursday, March 26, 2009, 6:34 PM)

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## COLUMNISTS

Ronna Adler

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Dr. Bill Atwood

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Dwight Barnes

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Cathie Campbell

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Jill Coppler

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Dale Drozen

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Elizabeth Gabriel

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Grace Grady-Barnes

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Bryan Greeson

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Mike Hackworth

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Tony Krizan

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Ed Lyons

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Earlene Ward

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"Patrick Heinsch needs a home," said an e-mail from Cheryl Williams of Inter-Ed, an organization that places foreign exchange students. He's from Germany and he's been attending Yosemite High School, but his host family made only a short-term commitment and cannot house the 17-year-old any longer.

Williams expected to find another home for the young man easily. He quickly adapted to the school, runs on the cross-country team, is polite, studious, and while meeting him at Starbucks last week, seemed to know every student that passed by.

One girl, Heinsch's Sadie Hawkins dance date waved shyly. "Where have you been?" another student asked.

Heinsch has been with Williams and her family, who live in Clovis.

If he doesn't find a Mountain Area host come this weekend, that's where he'll stay. He'll have to transfer to Clovis West High School and go through the entire process of being the 'new kid' once again until school is out in June.

Williams is concerned that he won't find it so easy to acclimate coming in midyear. And besides, his friends at Yosemite High would like him to stick around.

Heinsch, whose English is nearly flawless (save for a few words punctuated more heavily with his German accent) said, "I like it here. I want to stay at Yosemite because I have made friends here."

In Germany school is over by 1 p.m., so the long days have been an adjustment for Heinsch. So was the hour-long bus ride through the mountains.

Heinsch's home, a village called Neuenmarkt in Bavaria, has about the same number of residents as the Area, contained in an area about one-third of the size.

Family life has been another story. Heinsch said he clicked right away with his hosts, especially his host Heinsch's own father died in 2006. He said that's why he hopes to find a family with a father.

That was his only request.

Williams is so eager to keep him in the area, she said a host family can even just try it out for a few weeks and decide.

Williams has been working with Inter-Ed for eight years and says she now has a huge extended family in Germany.

A benefit, she added, to hosting a foreign exchange student. "You'll always have a place to stay abroad," said.

For more information about housing Heinsch or other foreign exchange students (Williams said there are German students than there are homes for them), contact Cheryl Williams, (559) 940-4713 or e-mail, [cheryl@inter-ed.com](mailto:cheryl@inter-ed.com).

To find out more about Inter-Ed, log on to [www.inter-ed.org](http://www.inter-ed.org).



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**The Sierra Star**

49165 Crane Valley Rd [426] | PO Box 305  
Oakhurst, CA 93644-8621  
Phone (559) 683-4464 | Fax (559) 683-8102



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