

LOCAL/STATE

Rotary Youth Exchange student attending BHS

BROOKINGS – Matteo Cabra from Erbanno, Italy has arrived in Brookings, where he is attending BHS. Matteo is a junior in high school. His home town, Erbanno, is in a valley surrounded by the Alps, so naturally Matteo is interested in hiking, mountain biking and skiing. He is also a basketball player and will be playing for the Bobcats.

His host parents this fall are Ginger Thomson and Jay Vanduch. His next host family will be the Goldhorn's: Stephanie, Jay T, Logan, Cicely, and Gabel.

As a Rotary Youth Exchange student 15-19 year olds spend a year living with host families and attending a local school. Students act as ambassadors for their home country while learning cultural differences and improving language skills.

Any above average student with demonstrated leadership in the community who is open to new experiences can qualify as an out-bound student to another country through a

written application and in-person interview coordinated by the Brookings Rotary Club. Along with acting as an ambassador for the home country, the student must abide by all program rules of the host Rotary club and district, accept the supervision of the host family, club and district and be an active participant in the exchange.

For more than 75 years, students and host families have broadened their horizons through Rotary Youth Exchange. More than 80 countries and over 8,000 students each year participate in the program, which is administered at the regional level by Rotary districts and at the local level by Rotary Clubs.

Rotary Clubs are made up of volunteers who are involved in community service, emphasize high ethical standards, and work toward peace and understanding in the world. The Brookings Rotary Club has 120 members and was chartered in 1920.

– From Brookings Rotary



From left are: David Gilkerson, Rotary Youth Exchange coordinator, Matteo Cabra, 2016-17 Rotary Exchange student, Tobias Uecker, Rotary Youth Exchange Committee chairperson, Dan Little, club president and Terry Spitzenberger, exchange student Rotary counselor.

Rotary Club photo