



RED OAK ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

THE *Heart* OF SOUTHWEST IOWA

By the Red Oak Heritage Foundation

Volume 2 | Issue 1 | Jan. 2023



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

1969 Red Oak Graduate Bill Williams,
now of Omaha, Nebraska

Bill, the son of Red Oak's past elementary principal, Robert Williams, graduated with Red Oak's the class of 1969 and then attended Dakota State College.

After 20 years of experience in sales, five years as a business college Admissions Representative and five years as a high school teacher and coach, Bill's life took a major shift in 2006 when he and his wife Evonne organized the Heartland Honor Flights, which resulted in 1,500 Nebraska World War II veterans flying to Washington D.C. on seven flights.

In 2013-2014, two trips were organized to take 600 Korean War veterans to Washington D.C., followed by two flights for over 1,100 Vietnam veterans in 2016 and 2017. In 2018, an all-female flight took 135 women veterans who served in a war zone to D.C.

The flights spurred an interest in creating more events and opportunities

to honor our country's veterans and their families, as did the Williams's four sons, who have changed their family's legacy to that of one serving in the military. Bill and Evonne are not veterans, nor do they come from military families. But their four sons have all volunteered to serve our country; two soldiers and two Marines.

The Williamses were inspired to create Remembering Our Fallen in the fall of 2010. Their eternal hope was to honor the memory of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and to provide comfort to friends and family of the Fallen. It was also their mission to remind others of the tremendous cost paid by some. The inspiration for this project came after reading a story in the Omaha World-Herald about a father whose pain and grief were even greater four years after his son, SGT Joshua Ford, had

died in Iraq.

To that end, Bill and Evonne decided to do something about it. In November 2010, with the backing of the Omaha World-Herald newspaper, and financial support of several sponsors, Bill & Evonne created a traveling photo memorial called Remembering Our Fallen. This memorial included photos of the Fallen who had died in The War on Terror since September 11, 2001, and called Nebraska home.

In 2011, Bill and Evonne co-founded



Bill and Evonne were being honored for their extraordinary accomplishments in organizing the Honor Flights that have transported more than 3,300 Nebraska veterans to the war memorials in Washington, D.C.

Patriotic Productions, a non-profit with a mission of honoring our military and remembering our country's Fallen. Since then, they have created sixteen state memorials (representing 60% of our country's Fallen since 9/11/01) with photos of our Fallen who called each respective state home.

Over the last few years, Bill and Evonne have created memorials for other states as well. After completing 19 state memorials, the focus shifted to a National Memorial that encompasses the Fallen from across the country. This National Memorial was unveiled in September 2017 at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C., and continues to tour the nation, giving Americans across the country the opportunity to honor our Fallen.



Remembering Our Fallen memorials, photos of the fallen in the War on Terror. www.patrioticproductions.org. The Iowa and Nebraska exhibits have been traveling their states since 2011.

TIGERS CLAW FOR VICTORY OVER THE MUSTANGS

Written By: David McFarland
Montgomery County History Center



Tigers Claw for Victory Over the Mustangs

I guess you might say that old enemies make the best enemies, better put is "old rivals." I am thinking that there are few of us, who remember 'Declaration Day 1930'. The story begins years before and only grew in voracity.

The story is of the Red Oak Tigers versus the Shenandoah Mustangs. We will start way back in 1919 and the last time the Tigers beat the Mustangs. Then in 1922, the Tigers manage to tie them, but it

is the beginning of a six year losing streak bordering on almost a tradition. Along comes 1928, a big year for Tiger football. They will win a Corner Conference, that is almost overshadowed by a 7-0 victory for the Tigers. It was reported that there were almost 6,000 people at Legion Park for the game.

This will only be the beginning of things to come. Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis Clubs, Legionnaires, and Chambers of Commerce from Red Oak and Shenandoah will work together to make the game for 1929 memorable. If only they could have foreseen the success that was to come. Other towns like Villisca would shutter their business, so everyone could attend that Memorial Day game. At least 4,000 will journey to Shenandoah. Even the governors of Nebraska and Iowa will be there to make speeches.

The coin is tossed and Shenandoah wins the call. They opt to defend and the game is on. It quickly becomes a contest of unsuccessful plays, missed calls, and lots of elbows.

No face guard penalties, there are no face guards, these were the days of leather helmets and very little padding. By the third quarter, the game stands RO-0, Shenandoah-6. The fourth quarter things start to get serious. Mustangs are penalized for dirty play and the play is called back, but on the second try their quarterback manages to fall over the goal line... after the whistle is blow, but the points are allowed, RO-0, Mustangs 13. Results were as reported by the Red Oak Express.

Now if you think we do not have a full-blow rivalry by now, I guess I do not know what to say.

Jump ahead to 1930, the game is starting to get interesting. Again, Shenandoah wins the toss and they chose to defend. By the third play of the game both teams are called for being off-side. The tone and the unofficial rules are set and things descend into a game of small gains, a few yards here and there with lots of penalties.

Third quarter, Mustangs score a touchdown, score 0-7 Mustangs. Now the story begins to sound like a scripted

movie, too unbelievable to be really true. The Tigers grind, slug, and claw their way to the one yard line. The snap comes and there is a pile of players on the goal line. Somehow, Davis for the Tigers has the ball and is still on his feet. He charges forward and leaps over the pile and scores. After all that it is 7-7, a tie.



Tigers vs. Mustangs 2016 www.KMAland.com

RED OAK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Written by: Mark Erickson, Activities Director



The 2023 Senior Basketball players were honored

WINTER 2023

The Red Oak School District Activities Department is proud to highlight our students, participants, and athletes from our fall and winter seasons!

Our coaches, directors, and sponsors strive to instill positive character qualities within our programs. Our activities department would like to publicly thank our alumni, businesses, and entire community for their ongoing support! Please read the exciting news about our programs and students below.



FALL SPORTS AWARDS

Since our last article, we have learned of many awards earned by our fall participants. 13 our senior participants earned Hawkeye Ten Conference All Academic recognition by earning a 3.5 GPA or above throughout their high school career. Those participants were involved in cross country, football, football cheerleading, and volleyball. All of our sports programs finished with a



The 2023 Senior Cheerleader players were honored a team GPA of 3.1 or above. The cross country boys team led the group with a combined 3.80 GPA. Eleven of our junior and senior football players and football cheerleaders earned the honor of representing Red Oak on the All-District Football Academic Team.

Fifteen Red Oak football players earned All-District honors with Dawson Bond being named MVP Defense. Four volleyball players earned All Hawkeye Ten Conference recognition.

FALL SPORTS AWARDS

In October, the Tiger Marching Band placed 2nd in the parade awards and field competition at the 67th Annual Southwest Iowa Band Jamboree! The Tiger Marching Band also received a Division 1, Superior Rating at the IHSMA State Marching Band Contest after a phenomenal performance.

15 students auditioned for the Southwest Iowa Honor Band. We are excited to announce six of our students were selected to participate in the concert in Atlantic on January 16th!

VOCAL

Three students were recently selected for participation in the 36th annual Opus Honor Choir Festival.

Over 2100 students were nominated by their directors for 720 positions in the four Opus Honor Choirs.

PLAY / MUSICAL

Our high school fall play, "The Pink Panther Strikes Again!" and Jr. High Musical "Matilda, Jr." were both well attended. Our students and directors went above and beyond in their preparation and performance!

WINTER EXTRAVAGANZA

The Winter Extravaganza featuring the sixth grade, junior high, and high school bands and choirs was last Saturday. It was well attended. Kudos to the students and Directors Terra Marsden, Tim Marsden, and Taylor Wood on outstanding performances.

WINTER SPORTS

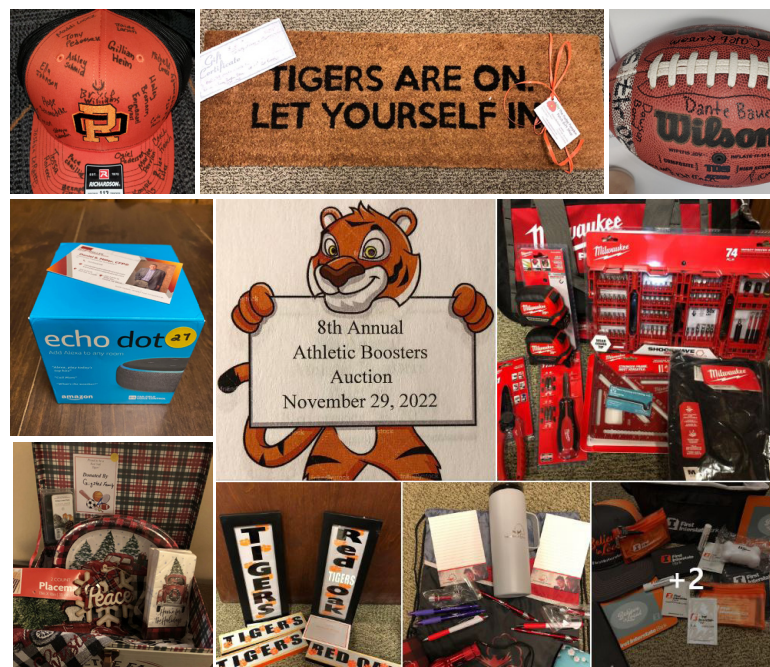
Our junior high and high school winter sports programs (boys and girls bowling, boys and girls basketball, and boys and girls wrestling) are off to a great start. We will provide a summary of their seasons with the next newsletter article.



Anna Butz, Lily Marsden, and Zoie Rohrig were recently selected for participation in the 36th annual Opus Honor Choir Festival.

ATHLETIC BOOSTERS, MUSIC BOOSTERS, FFA ALUMNI AND SUPPORTERS

In Our activities department is blessed with the amazing support of our Red Oak Athletic Boosters, Red Oak Music Boosters, and the FFA Alumni and Supporters. The groups help raise funds and volunteer for our activities programs. Without these amazing people, our students would not have the funds to purchase items for their programs. The work they do also go toward providing opportunities for students to be involved in ways that would not be otherwise possible. If anyone is interested in donating time, money, and/or wants to learn more about how to support these groups, please contact Activities Director Mark Erickson at ericksonm@redoakschools.org or 712-623-6610

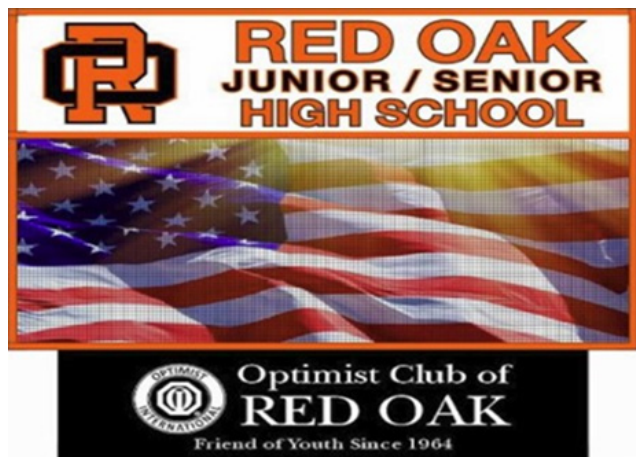


Red Oak Athletic Boosters Auction Items

RED OAK OPTIMIST CLUB SCHOOL SIGN PROJECT

Written By: Dan Crouse

The Red Oak Optimist Club is currently accepting donations for the purchase of a sign to be placed at the R.O. Jr/Sr high building. This double-sided sign would be used for notification of all kinds of events, student recognitions and messaging relating to all students K-12th grade.



Future Red Oak School sign location and example sign



The FFA Alumni, Athletic Boosters, Foundation & Music Boosters banded together to show their support & donate funds towards the Red Oak Optimists sign project. The Optimists are getting closer to their goal & can't wait to see the new sign in front of the RO Jr-Sr High School promoting

all of the amazing things happening at our Red Oak schools!

Donations are 501 C.3 deductible to R.O. Optimist Club. If you have any questions please contact text or call Dan Crouse at 712.621.0051.

WILSON PERFORMING ARTS CENTER - UPCOMING EVENTS

THE WILSON PRESENTS:

Boeing Boeing

A LAUGH-OUT-LOUD COMEDY
BY: MARC CAMOLETTIE

DIRECTED BY:
KRISTI HARDWICH
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR:
CIARA SCHIERHOLZ

FEBRUARY 10TH & 11TH @ 7:30PM & 12TH @ 2:30PM
ADULTS: \$30 - STUDENTS: \$20
CALL TO RESERVE YOUR SEATS! 712.623.3183
300 COMMERCE DRIVE, RED OAK, IA 51556

The Wilson Performing Arts Center
presents...

TODD OLIVER

AND Irving the Talking Dog

Comedy! • Ventriloquism! • Magic! • Music!

\$30/Adults
\$20/Kids

AMERICA'S GOT TALENT FINALIST

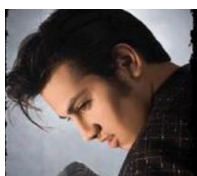
SATURDAY, MARCH 4 @ 7:30PM
&
SUNDAY, MARCH 5 @ 2:30PM

For tickets, call 712-623-3183
or order online at www.wilsonartscenter.org

SPONSORED BY:

OAK VALLEY ANIMAL HEALTH

Always... Patsy Cline
March 24-26, 2023
A Tribute to the Lady, the Legend
Community Theatre Production



Joseph Hall's
Elvis Rock N' Remember
April 15, 2023
Elvis is back in the house!

Crazy For You
June 14-18, 2023
The New Gershwin Musical
Community Theatre Production





FOTROT

Written By Beau Boeye
FOTROT President

WHO ARE FRIENDS OF THE RED OAK TRAILS

Friends of the Red Oak Trails is a non-profit organization. We are dedicated to preserving our community's natural resources and providing trails for public use. Friends of the Red Oak Trails meets monthly to discuss trail maintenance, new projects, and more. If you or someone you know is interested in helping our cause we would love to have you as a member. Please reach out to the number or email at the end of the article for more information. You can also help our pursuit with a tax-deductible donation. We are currently working on revamping our fundraising campaign, so stay tuned to learn more about new opportunities to help enhance and expand our trails!



ABOUT THE RED OAK TRAILS

Within Red Oak there are approx. 2.5 miles of paved recreation trails. In addition to this there are designated "on street" bike routes which loop off the dedicated recreational trails to take you by Red Oak's historic downtown. The trail incline varies with some being flat and other sections having up to a 12% grade. In addition to the paved and on street routes, Red Oak has Indian Gully which is a hiking trail system that takes you through wooded terrain. In addition, just outside Red Oak is Anderson Conservation & Wildlife Area, which boasts its own trails and water features.

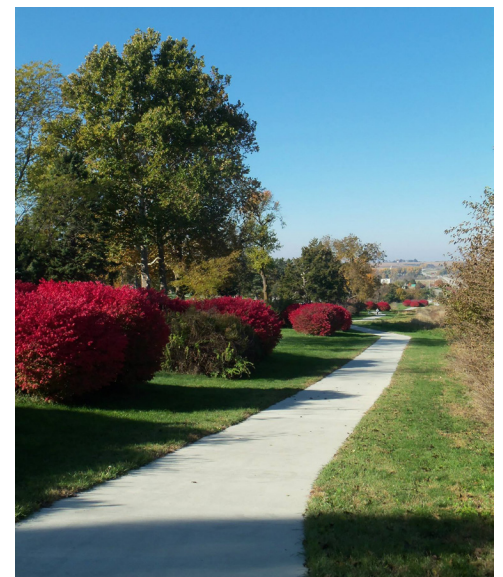
ONGOING PROJECTS

Friends of the Red Oak Trails has various projects being worked on in the background. Currently our organization is looking into ways of improving the safety and walkability of school children around the Inman Elementary campus. A few ways have been identified on how to potentially improve the area's traffic congestion; create new/improve existing pickup and drop-off locations; create a new dedicated trail route to better connect

Inman Elementary with Chautauqua Park. Another project that recently has been rebooted is the potential of incorporating the levee into the recreational trail system. Such an accomplishment would add a segment that would stretch the entire western border of the community.

And lastly, we're finalizing new unique ways for individuals and businesses to donate to our organization with the creation of an arboretum. Some other fun possibilities are actively being discussed, so please stay tuned!

For more information please reach out to current board president, Beau Boeye. 712-370-2371
beau@boeyetd.com



If you would like to forward this email on so others can sign up have them follow the link below to join the Red Oak Alumni Network and receive the Red Oak Alumni Newsletter quarterly!

<https://www.redoakiowa.com/alumni/>

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you have a submission for someone you think should be next issue's Alumni Spotlight send us an email to redoakiowa.alumni.newsletter@gmail.com

If you know a graduate of Red Oak Schools that has passed and would like to be included in next issues obituary section please send their name, year of graduation, and year of passing to redoakiowa.alumni.newsletter@gmail.com

RED OAK ALUMNI "DID YOU KNOW"

If you would like to submit any Red Oak Graduates for our Red Oak Alumni "Did You Know" Section click this link to enter their information!

[Red Oak Alumni "Did You Know"](#)

If you would like to join the Red Oak Iowa Alumni Facebook Group just follow the below link and request to join! It is a private Red Oak Alumni group where people can ask questions, post about upcoming events, etc.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/redoakalumni>

THE RED OAK ALUMNI NETWORK

Have a wonderful week, and be on the lookout for the next issue of the Red Oak Alumni Newsletter coming out the first week of January 2023.



RED OAK ALUMNI NEWSLETTER SPONSORED BY THE RED OAK HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The Alumni Newsletter is sponsored by the Red Oak Heritage Foundation, our community foundation. If you would like to help support them or for more information on them go to www.redoakheritagefoundation.org