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MARCH 26, 2026

Volume 19 • Issue 6

Announcements

- **Save the date! 2026 Dennison Days August 7 & 8.**
- **Hiawathaland Transit:** Service hours are 7:30am-4:30pm Monday through Friday. Call dispatch at 866-623-7505 Monday through Friday 6am-9pm and Saturday 7:00am-5:00pm. Visit threeiverscap.org for more information.

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KENYON PARK & REC'S
EASTER EGG HUNT
SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH 2026
START 11:00 AM
DEPOT PARK
55 WASHINGTON ST
SEE YOU THERE!
BRING YOUR BASKET & CAMERA!!



Blood Drive
Kenyon Community
VFW - 601 East Second St, Kenyon
Monday, April 6, 2026
1:00-7:00 PM



A Quilt of Valor

By Cheri Roshon

On March 17th, the Wanamingo Honor Guard joined forces with the lady quilters of the area to honor Beverly Griesert for her service to our country. What is a Quilt of Valor? It is a physical tribute to those who have served in any one of the military operations in America.

Any veteran with an honorable discharge or active-duty service persons can be nominated for this honor. The quilts are an expression of gratitude for the time the nominee has spent in the military. Once nominated, a Quilt of Valor committee decides on the approval of the nominee, and the quilt making begins. There are organizations all over the country



who get together and sew quilts for our veterans.

There is a lot that goes into this project. There are donations given to the quilt makers to purchase the material, batting, and thread to make the quilts.

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Small Oversight Leads to International Incident for Local Man

By Stacia Horning

On February 14, 2026 a group of 6 young adults excitedly ventured on their dream vacation, two weeks of touring Japan. Benjamin, brothers Ethan and Trevor, Trevor's girlfriend Marji and a young married couple Josiah and Amelia. Many of these young adults have longed to visit Japan since childhood due to playing the common video game of Poke'mon, watching anime shows, two hold a 3rd degree black belt in Tae Kwando and one who earned his first-degree black belt this past year, Trevor.

(continued on page 4)

Pictured to the left (left to right) back row: Ethan, Trevor, Josiah, Benjamin. Front row: Mari, Amelia



K/W Baseball Bingo

By Cheri Roshon

With spring just on the horizon and snow still on the ground, The Kenyon/Wanamingo Legion Baseball is preparing for the 2026 season. One way to raise money for the team is Baseball Bingo, which is held at the Kenyon/Wanamingo American Legion Post #78 in Kenyon.



(continued on page 4)



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Announcements

• **All are welcome to breakfast, fellowship, bible study, and prayer time every Saturday morning at Hauge Lutheran Church in Kenyon.** Breakfast and fellowship start at 8:00 am. Followed by a verse by verse bible study. Finishing with prayer time at 10:00 am. All are welcome (men, women, and children) each Saturday morning!! Any questions, please contact Loren Bauer: 507-450-6623.

• **Three Rivers Community Action is currently accepting new Meals On Wheels clients in the communities of Zumbrota, Mazeppa, Goodhue, Pine Island, Kenyon and Wanamingo.** Receive a hot meal delivered to your home by a volunteer at lunch time up to 5 days per week. To qualify you must be 60 or older, live within city limits, have limited mobility and/or are unable to prepare nutritious meals. The suggested donation is \$5-\$10 per meal. For more information on how to sign up for meals or to be a volunteer driver, please contact Dana Bergner at 507-421-6067 or dbergner@threeriverscap.org

• **Wanamingo Veterans Honor Guard invite you to become a member.** Join us and help us make the Wanamingo Veterans Honor Guard an even bigger success. WVHG meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Wanamingo Community Center. The VFW will meet from 7-7:30p.m. The Honor Guard will meet from 7:30-8:30p.m. For more information contact Eric Dierks 507-321-1967, Gary Floan at 507-732-7740, or Larry Van De Walker at 507-421-4674.

Do you have an announcement?

Email:

hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Pastors Corner

Right now, Christians around the world are celebrating the season of Lent. Lent, as you may know, is the season of the church year

that leads to Easter when Christians celebrate new life.

This Lenten season I'm lingering on Jesus' last night on earth for some reason. That last night is described in the 13th chapter of John's Gospel. There's a lot going on that night. Jesus feeds his disciples a meal, giving bread first to his enemy, Judas. Jesus puts wine in their hands & likens the wine to the blood he will soon pour out for them. After dinner, Jesus puts a towel around his waist

and washes his disciple's feet. Then of course, Jesus dies on the cross that same night. That last night is peppered with acts of self-sacrificial love from Jesus.

Leading up to all of that, John tells us that "Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God." (John 13:3). That verse makes me stop.

(continued on page 3)

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

Sausages

John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."

— **Luke 3:10-11**

The man had been invited in, and he had become part of the church. He lived on a pension and struggled with a mental illness. He had been the CEO of a large company in Toronto until his health had changed. His life had become drastically different, but he lived with a large and generous heart. He wanted to contribute, and one day he walked into the church to join others.

He said, "I have eight sausages, still frozen. I don't like sausages, but I would like to share them with others. Can we make two pots of soup; one with sausage, and one without?" We assured him that we could do that. He enjoyed the soup that had no sausage, and he was pleased that others enjoyed the soup with sausage.

He knew that meals were harder to find at the end of the month. He had learned that a pension check goes only so far. He knew that if he shared with others, it would be good news for them. His sharing also inspired others. It was the start of our church's Stone Soup meal, and many people have contributed to it. He was glad to find a place of peace that could help him serve others.

Stone Soup is now a community event where food, clothes, and friendship are shared on two Thursdays each month. Many are invited so that the good news can be shared. This has led many people to walk through the door of a church who might not have otherwise done so. You are invited too!

Dear God, help us to be generous and kind even if our life turns upside down. Help us to use what you have given us to bless others. Amen.

DENNISON/VANG LUTHERAN PARISH
(C) 507-269-5997 Office: 507-645-6042
P.O. Box 117, Dennison, MN 55018
Website: www.dennisonvang.org
You can join us for Worship online at
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/167136242800>

Wednesday Lenten Vespers

Our Lenten Vespers are Holden Evening Prayer, a brief sung liturgy by Marty Haugen. Midweek worship is Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Vespers are preceded by soup suppers beginning at 6:00.

Soup suppers and Lenten Evening Vespers will be at Dennison.

Dennison/Vang Lutheran Holy Week

Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

March 29th - 9:00 AM at Vang,

10:30 AM at Dennison

Maundy Thursday - April 2nd

7:00 PM at Dennison

Good Friday Community Worship

April 3rd - 7:00 PM at Vang

Easter Sunday - April 5th

9:00 AM at Vang, 10:30 AM at Dennison

Easter Breakfast - April 5th 8:00 AM at Vang

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

301 2nd Avenue, Wanamingo
824-2155

WANAMINGO LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

130 West 3rd St., Wanamingo
824-2457

www.TrinityWanamingo.org

ASPELUND EMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Rob Edwards, Pastor
42957 County 1 Blvd, Kenyon • 507-824-2307
www.emmanuelaflc.org
8:30a.m. Prayer Time; 9:00a.m. Sunday School
10:00a.m. Coffee Time; 10:30a.m. Worship Service

FIRST EV. LUTHERAN

D.J. Chatelaine, Pastor
309 Forest Street, Kenyon • 507-789-5261
website: fickenyon.org
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.;
Noon-1:00p.m. Open Prayer Time,
1st Tuesday each month

GOL LUTHERAN

Joe Jorgensen, Pastor • 507-838-2100
Sunday Worship 10:30a.m.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, NERSTRAND

Mike Ahrens S.A.M.
Service 9am. Coffee hour follows @ 10 am
Sunday School 10:15 am

GOSPEL OF LIFE FAMILY CHURCH

Pastor Steve Roberts
2140 Highway 3 South, Northfield
507-259-2644
srobertsds@frontiernet.net
Facebook: [calvarychapelnorthfield-jesus saves](https://www.facebook.com/calvarychapelnorthfield-jesus-saves)
Website: calvarynorthfield.org
Sundays 1:00 pm

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Wheeling Twp) 19086 Jacob Avenue, Faribault
Gary Liker, Pastor
507-330-0025
www.stjohnsunitychurchofchrist.info
Sunday School 9:30a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.

HAUGE LUTHERAN

Larry Grove, Pastor • 507-271-9761
302 Bullis Street, Kenyon
Sunday Worship 10:00a.m. with lunch following

LANDS LUTHERAN CHURCH

P O Box 225/16640 Hwy 60 Blvd
Zumbrota, MN 55992-5105 • (507) 732-5482
Web Site: www.landslutheran.org
Facebook: Lands Lutheran Church
Pastor: David Krinke
Email: pastordavid@landslutheran.org
Pastor: Nikki Rockne
Email: pastornikki@landslutheran.org
Sunday services 8:30 am Contemporary Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship

STORDAHL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

Pastor Kathleen Lowery
15049 Cty. 12 Blvd., Zumbrota • 732-5711
Sundays 10:30 a.m. Worship

HOLDEN AND DALE LUTHERAN CHURCHES, ELCA

Pastor Dustin Haider 507-789-6677
holdendalesecretary@gmail.com
Holden: 6949 County 30 Blvd, Kenyon
Dale: 9210 County 12 Blvd, Kenyon
www.holdenlutheranchurch.org
Holden/Dale on Facebook
Holden Lutheran Church on Facebook

Worship Services

Mar 29: Holden 9:00, Dale 11:00
Apr 5: Easter Sunrise Dale 7:00, Holden 10:00
Apr 12: Holden 9:00, Dale 11:00
Apr 19: Dale 9:00, Holden 11:00
Apr 26: Holden 9:00, Dale 11:00
May 3: Dale 9:00, Holden 11:00

MOLAND CHURCH

507-456-4242 • Sunday Worship 10:00a.m.

NERSTRAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Gary Liker, Pastor, 12 Maple Street • 507-330-0025
Worship 9:00 a.m.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Reverend Daren Flinck
429 4th Street, Kenyon • 507-951-1271
Worship 9:30 a.m.

KENYON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

651-283-5754 • Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck
Sunday Worship 9:30a.m., Live stream on Yahoo

ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Cory Rohlfing • Deacon Newell McGee
108 Bullis St., Kenyon
Sunday Mass 8:00a.m.; Wednesday Mass 5:00p.m.

NEW LIFE CHURCH

525 Beverly Street, Wanamingo, mn
Phone - 507-824- 3019
WWW.NLCWANAMINGO.ORG
(Online Services also available)
OFFICE@NLCWANAMINGO.ORG
Pastor Vince Derr
Sunday School for preschool - adult 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Services 10:00 a.m. (Nursery Available)
New Life Kids (K- 6th) Wednesdays 6 - 7:15 pm
Youth Group (7th- 12th grade)
Two Sunday evenings per month
Women's ministry, Men's ministry and more.
Contact the church for more information.



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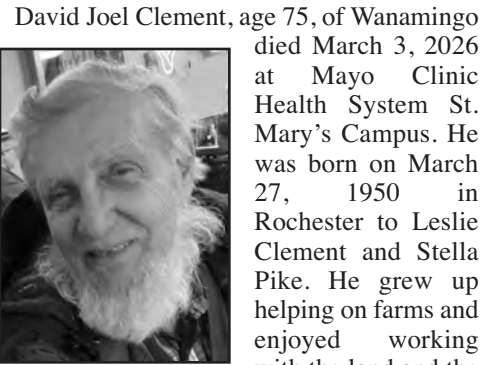
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SHOP
LOCAL

David Joel Clement



David Joel Clement, age 75, of Wanamingo died March 3, 2026 at Mayo Clinic Health System St. Mary's Campus. He was born on March 27, 1950 in Rochester to Leslie Clement and Stella Pike. He grew up helping on farms and enjoyed working with the land and the outdoors. He later began working for IBM. He enjoyed spending his time outdoors, fishing, hunting, and camping. He also enjoyed woodworking and creating beautiful cabinets. He is survived by his children, Jesse McEachern, Isabel Toche, Jaimie Ebert all of Rochester, Victoria Clement of WI, Tina Bruce of Bemidji; siblings, Jerry Clement of West Concord and Dixie Luttcens of Rochester. He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Myland Riege, Gene Clement and Orville Riege. The Celebration of life for David Clement will be on April 4th at the American Legion in Pine Island (108 1st Ave SE Pine Island) from 1pm-3pm. Thank you for being part of his life. He valued his friends and family very much.

Robert Dean Aakre



Robert Dean Aakre, 80, of Kenyon, died on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at Zumbrota Care Center with his family by his side. He was born April 16, 1945, in Faribault, the son of Selmer and Selma (Grinstad) Aakre. Bob grew up in rural Kenyon and graduated from Kenyon High School in 1963. He then went on to attend Winona State University and graduated with a degree in Education. He was a student teacher in Pine Island, Minnesota, and then taught in Zion, Illinois, and Missouri Valley, Iowa, teaching for a total of 33 years. He met his wife, Ellen, who was also a teacher, and they were united in marriage on February 2, 1974, the ywere blessed with two sons, Thom and Jamie. Once he retired, he worked as a custodian at Northfield High School and maintained the fairways at the Kenyon Country Club. When Bob wasn't working, he enjoyed raising cattle in the summer, working around the farm, and all things Minnesota sports. He also loved enjoying a good meal with his family and friends. Bob is survived by his wife of 52 years,

Ellen of Kenyon; children, Thomas (Sara Nikouee) Aakre, James (Alice McGlave) Aakre, Christopher Aakre, Susan (Burke) Ross, and Heidi Aakre; grandchildren, Nora, Zoe, Sydney, Olivia, Tanner, Dakota, Griffin, Blake, and Melrose; great-granddaughter, Wynter; siblings, Lester, Vivian, and Doris. He was preceded in death by his parents,

Selmer and Selma. A memorial service was held at Holden Lutheran Church on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at 11 am with a visitation one hour prior to the service. Interment was at Holden Cemetery following the service. Memorials may be directed at the Holden Lutheran Church.

Pastors Corner

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The power that made the stars decided to spend its last night on earth washing feet? The power that spun the earth into motion decided to spend its last night feeding an enemy? The power that could crush evil with one snap of its fingers allowed himself to be crushed? The power that wove all matter together let somebody else wash the matter that made up his body? That's what divine power looks like when it leaves the stars? Foot washing? Sharing bread? Death for somebody else?

That's what's so weird about the power of God. When the power that made the stars leaves the stars it looks like a man washing feet...even his enemies' feet. When the power that holds the galaxies in its hands takes on human flesh it breaks bread with those same hands & shares it. When the power that created human bodies actually occupies a human body it looks like John 13... kneeling, foot-washing, sharing bread, sacrificing itself for the things it made. God's unfathomable power, when translated into something actually fathomable, looks like THAT.

I wouldn't have seen that coming. Would you have?

That makes me wonder if sometimes I'm looking for the power of God in all the wrong places. In kings, rulers, governments, court rooms, armies, movers-and-shakers, celebrity, popularity, fame, wealth, achievement, success, glory, honor, possessions, comfort, security.... Why didn't the power that made the stars occupy any of those things?

The Gospels don't tell me why, they just tell me He didn't. When that great Power left the stars it washed feet.

I guess if we want to participate with that power, we'd best pick up our own towels & find some feet to wash.

Rejoice
For He Is **Risen!**
Easter Morning Service 8:00 a.m.
~ Breakfast to Follow ~
Come and rejoice with us! He is risen!!
Hauge Free Lutheran Church 302 Bullis Street, Kenyon

Lands Easter Worship Services
Moonlight Vigil, April 4th
8:00 PM In the park - Weather permitting
Followed by a Glow in the Dark Egg Hunt and Easter S'mores
Easter Morning, April 5th
8:30 and 10:30 In Person and on Facebook
Breakfast and Egg Hunt Between Services
Lands Lutheran Church
16680 Hwy 60 Blvd, Zumbrota MN 55992



St. John's United Church of Christ
Presents Drama of the Leonardo da Vinci Painting of the Lord's Supper
19086 Jacobs Ave., Faribault, Minnesota
Wheeling Township
Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026 8pm

This year's presentation of the Last Supper Drama at St. John's UCC will be held on Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026. The production features a monologue of each disciple and their relationship with Christ. In addition to the in-person production, we are pleased to provide a live stream at both Facebook and YouTube at St. John's UCC Faribault, MN.

"A great beginning to Holy Week" is among the many reflections of this long-standing tradition.

The 2026 Cast

Andrew	Alan Meyer
Peter	Bob Sommers
James	Craig Mueller
Philip	Matthew Schwake
Bartholomew	Brian Bauer
Thomas	John Brandenburg
Matthew	Keith Keller
James the Less	Doug Spike
Judas	Gordie Wiegrefe
Simon	Brian Little
Thaddeus	Kyle Keller
John	Paul Meyer

Small Oversight Leads to International Incident for Local Man

(continued from page 1)

So, as you can imagine, they were ecstatic about being able to visit a culture that many of them had grown to admire.

During their time on the mainland of Japan they were able to fully immerse themselves in Japanese culture. Some of the many experiences included a Japanese Tea Ceremony, Samori experience, forging knives, a ramen making class, and visiting a technology exhibit called Team Lab, an exhibit where technology is used to create the feeling of being in nature.

The group was able to enjoy visiting Hakone, a vacation spot which seemed to be visited by nationals more than international tourists, and Kyoto, a hub for traditional Japanese culture including temples and shrines.

As they continued their experience they flew from Osaka to the island of Okinawa, Japan. Where they spent time touring and visiting sites. Then while walking the beach, on February 24, Trevor expressed his love for Marji as he bent down on one knee and proposed. Their trip to Japan was to be more than a dream vacation, it was a vacation that would mark the beginning of forever for them both.

As their vacation continued they were to fly back to Tokyo on Thursday, February 26, to enjoy one last night at what was to be the nicest (fanciest) hotel they were to stay at during their travels. While going through security at the Naha airport in Okinawa, Japan, Trevor was pulled aside. The group was confused as to what was happening but learned Trevor had a small pocket in his bag where a single 9MM bullet was found.

The group was instructed by security to get

on their flight not knowing what was happening with Trevor. The only Japanese individual who spoke some English tried translating telling Ethan and Marji he believed Trevor would be held in a hotel for 10 days during the investigation but didn't know what else would happen.

In the chaos Marji contacted her mom and brother frantically not knowing what she was to do, her brother contacted Trevor's mother, Stacia, who called Ethan immediately. Ethan quickly told her all he knew was that Trevor had a bullet and they were instructed by security they must leave and get on their flight. Anxiety was high with having to leave not knowing and only having 20 minutes to navigate the airport to make their flight. She advised him that the group needs to make the flight.

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Marji and Trevor

K/W Baseball Bingo

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If you would like to participate in this event, come to the American Legion in Kenyon at 601 2nd Street for some good ol' fashioned fun! The first Bingo Night is April 18th from 5pm to 7 pm, and all are welcome to join in the fun!

Bingo Night proceeds go to support the team. The Legion post pays all the costs so there are no fees for the players. The team is made up of kids who play on the Kenyon-Wanamingo Varsity and Junior Varsity teams in the spring. Other area communities have teams that participate as well. Games begin in early June and continue into July. There are 13 games scheduled, including a 4 game tournament they travel to in Ely in mid-June. They are a part of the 3rd District, East Central Substate which is made up of 13 teams. Playoffs for that group start July 13th, with the winner advancing to the State Tournament. Home games are played in Wanamingo at Memorial Field.

So, whether or not you like to play bingo and help raise some money to support the team or just want to come out and support the team with your presence and your cheering, the team will be glad you came!! Take me out to the ball game!! Spring is almost here!

OBITUARY

Patricia Sue "Pat" Raasch

Patricia Sue "Pat" Raasch, 73, of Wanamingo, MN, passed away peacefully on March 7, 2026 at home surrounded by her daughters.



Pat was born July 22, 1952, in Faribault, MN, to Arvin and Elaine (Haugen) Grove. She was raised in Wanamingo and graduated from Wanamingo High School in 1970.

Pat married Marvin Swiggum, and together they welcomed a daughter, Jennifer. They later divorced. On October 15, 1977, Pat married Daniel Raasch, and they welcomed their daughter, Allison. Pat and Danny lived in Zumbrota for almost 30 years until his death in 2005. Soon after she moved to Wanamingo.

Pat had a special gift for connecting with people and bringing joy to others. She spent many years as the Activities Director at the Zumbrota and Pine Island Nursing Homes, where she deeply

valued the wisdom and companionship of the elderly. Later, Pat worked as a transporter at Mayo Clinic, a job she thoroughly enjoyed.

Faith was the foundation of Pat's life. She was a Christian and loved the Lord, spending many hours in prayer and devotion, lifting others up and sharing God's word wherever she went. Her kindness and genuine care for others left a lasting impression on all who knew her.

Pat found joy in early morning walks, reading, music, dancing, playing cards, traveling, and shopping trips with her sister, Wanda. Whether visiting with neighbors or spending time with friends and family, Pat treasured every opportunity to connect and build relationships rooted in love and faith.

Throughout life's many challenges, Pat leaned on the Lord and used her experiences to comfort others facing similar struggles. She lived her life as a reflection of Christ's love—offering encouragement, prayer, and friendship to anyone in need.

In a final act of generosity and service to others, Pat chose to donate her body to science and education.

Pat is very much missed by her daughters, Jennifer (Scott) McCutcheon of Lakeville, MN and Allison (Kurtis) Ronningen of West Concord, MN; grandchildren, Alex (Jamie) McCutcheon, Kayla (Isaac) Leonard, Knute and Aislynn Ronningen; great-grandchildren Nora and Adalyn McCutcheon and Levi Leonard; siblings Shirley (Roger) Friese, Betty (John) Thompson, Avonne (Donald) Bakken, Wanda

(Greg) Swarthout, Larry (Joan) Grove, in-laws Jim (Brenda) Raasch and Elaine Hannenberger; and many nieces, nephews, extended family members and cherished friends.

Upon arrival in Heaven she was greeted by her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and also by her parents, Arvin and Elaine Grove; her husband, Daniel; her grandson, Payton; and all the other friends and family who went on before her.

The family extends their sincere gratitude to Mayo Clinic Hospice, Wanamingo Fire and Rescue, and Dr. William Ward for their compassionate care and support.

A service of remembrance was held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Zumbrota on Friday, March 13 at 4pm. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Wanamingo Fire and Rescue.

Her family finds peace knowing she now rests in the arms of the Savior she faithfully served.

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KENYON VFW POST 141

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FISH FRY

FRIDAY, MARCH 27 5:00-7:00 PM

April 21 Legion Meeting 7:30 PM
April 27 Auxiliary Meeting 5:30 PM, Veteran Support Group Meeting 7:00 PM
April 28 VFW Meeting 6:00 PM • April 28 Color Guard Meeting 6:30 PM

HAPPY HOUR:
Monday-Saturday
from 4:00-7:00 PM
Come on down and support the VFW
and enjoy some good times!

Conrad Osthum Post 141
Veterans of Foreign Wars
601 2nd Street, Kenyon, MN • 507-789-5691

Gulf War Veterans, come join us!

APRIL 18 5-7 PM

Consider joining an organization, the VFW needs you. PULL TABS AVAILABLE! Lic. #G-00019-004

Small Oversight Leads to International Incident for Local Man

(continued from page 4)

The group was forced to leave Trevor in Okinawa, Japan and returned home that Saturday afternoon.

Within minutes of hanging up with Ethan, Stacia called the American Consulate in Okinawa, Japan where she was told "We are unable to give any information due to the Privacy Act of 1974." This act prevents any information to be given to any person without a Privacy Release Form signed by the pertaining individual. Due to a previous international encounter that week she knew this and requested it be brought to him immediately. The representative from the consulate reiterated she is unable to give any information but gave Stacia the phone number for the closest police station in which Trevor would have been taken.

Stacia then called the police station where she was told "we can not give you any information, we can not tell you if he is here or not." Thanks to Life 360 Marji was able to see the last location of his phone, showing the exact police station he was being held at.

On Friday Stacia contacted her local congressman's assistant, Julie. Julie had Stacia fill out an online form to explain the situation while she did some research. Shortly after the initial phone call Julie called Stacia back explaining Trevor needs a lawyer immediately stating Japan has very strict ammunition laws and a single bullet is viewed the same as possessing a gun.

Julie then reached out to the Consulates in

Tokyo and Okinawa where she as well was told "due to the Privacy Act of 1974 we are not allowed to give out any information until a privacy release form is signed by the pertaining party." This was very frustrating; however, she continued to reach out through different avenues.

While Julie worked on her end Stacia continued to reach out to the American Consulate in Okinawa and the police department requesting Trevor be brought the Privacy Release Form. After several calls from a frustrated mother the consulate employee finally let Stacia speak to an American officer. He informed her he was not allowed to contact Trevor until the Police Department contacts the Consulate. Additionally, Stacia had been calling lawyer after lawyer getting no answers only to realize that even though it was Friday for her it was Saturday in Okinawa.

In one last ditch effort she called a Baptist Church that is ran by American missionaries, unbelievably the phone was answered on a Saturday. The reason? There was a group of ladies at the church having a baby shower. Stacia explained the situation to the church member and asked her to reach out to the pastor. Finally, later that day an American missionary reached out, Dan. He asked about the situation and said he didn't know what he could do but he would see if he could gather information. This is when Stacia booked her flight to Japan.

On Sunday Stacia continued to call lawyers in Naha where either the individual answering the phone didn't speak English or they were unable to take the case. As she continued to prepare to leave for Japan, that coming Monday, Dan called with information.

Dan learned Trevor would be held for 10 days and would then most likely be released. This was not guaranteed since it was learned through unofficial channels but was still news. Now with some answers and knowing Dan was there to help Stacia cancelled her flight. Later, Dan reached out again stating he was able to meet with the officer in charge of detention and learned Trevor had been given a public defender and would go before

the judge in the morning for his initial arraignment. This is where he would either be released or be held for an additional 10 days, Dan would know more later that day. The family waited anxiously praying he would be released. Finally, news had come, the judge had decided to hold him for the additional 10 days. Dan continued with encouraging Stacia and letting her know he would be able to visit Trevor in the jail the next day when he would be allowed to bring Trevor books and food. He still did not know who the Public Defender was, but was told Trevor appeared to be doing fine.

Dan was able to visit Trevor Monday and reported Trevor appeared to be doing well and felt relieved he was not alone. Trevor informed Dan he would be held until March 11th where it could be extended to the 21st when the prosecutor would decide whether or not to prosecute. Having possession of a single bullet, in Japan, could lead to a 3 year prison sentence or up to a \$16,000 fine.

This was when a GoFundMe page was started to help cover the costs of lawyer fees, a plane ticket home and the possibility of paying a large fine. Many people were very generous with financial support and prayers.

Monday evening Trevor's Public Defender contacted Stacia. Due to him not speaking English, communication was limited. He let her know he was able to visit with Trevor and had a message to relay. He wanted to let her know he was okay, sorry and to let Marji know he loves her. Communication with the lawyer became easier when Dan, who speaks Japanese, was able to connect with him.

Soon after, the American Officer visited Trevor, providing him with the Privacy Release Form. He called Stacia to confirm an email address for additional information Trevor had requested the consulate have.

That Wednesday Dan called to inform the family it had been unexpectedly decided Trevor would be released that Friday at 11:00 a.m. which was Thursday afternoon Central Standard Time. Trevor's family was overcome with emotion and the fear of the worst was over; however, it wouldn't be until he was released and on American soil when they would finally be able to rest.

That Friday Dan picked Trevor up from the jail and gave him a place to stay for the next few nights. Trevor spent time with Dan's family, helping with what he could at the church. Tuesday afternoon Trevor was

greeted at the Minneapolis airport with open arms from Marji and his grandfather.

Julie stated without Dan's assistance during this time the family would have no answers even through government channels which raises many concerns as to how the Privacy Act of 1974 is written. If Trevor hadn't been traveling with a group he would have been sitting in the local jail for 4 or 5 days before any family members would have been made aware of the situation.

Trevor has been asked many questions about his time in Japan, here are his answers.

• **What was it like while being detained?** It was scary not knowing what was being said, where they were taking me and having to be left behind by my friends and family. The security guards weren't aggressive but were stern. They didn't allow me to have any communication with anyone.

• **What was it like when they took you to the police station?** There was an interpreter who translated during the interview when they asked me about the bullet. After the interview they brought me to a room with all my luggage where we had to make a list of every item I had with me. After that they put me in a cell. The next day they completed the fingerprinting and mugshot routine. There was a digital fingerprint scanner where they scanned each finger and palm for each hand.

• **What were the conditions of the jail?** How did the guards treat you? The guards were respectful and nice. It was overall pretty chill. The sleeping conditions were rough. We had two blankets, one to lay on the floor, which was a plastic tatami mat, one to cover with and a pillow that was like a slightly squishy rock.

• **What was the food like in Jail?** For breakfast we were given a juice box with a bun, lunch was a bowl of rice with a topping on it and green tea and supper was a bowl of rice with a topping, either soup or ramen and green tea.

It all tasted good, I would rate it a 3.5 out of 5 stars.

• **What was the bathroom facility like?** In the cell there was a small bathroom with a window at head height for the guards to see. We were allowed 2 showers a week and were taken to the shower room individually. It was a room with a bathtub, but we were not allowed to go in the tub. We put water in a bowl and poured it over ourselves to wash.

(continued on page 6)



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Small Oversight Leads to International Incident for Local Man

(continued from page 5)

There was a drain on the room floor. We were provided soap and one towel the size of a hand towel.

• **What was the "Yard" like, did you get to go outside?** The only time I went outside was when I was being transported to the court house. Going to and from the vehicle. Every other day we were allowed to get some fresh

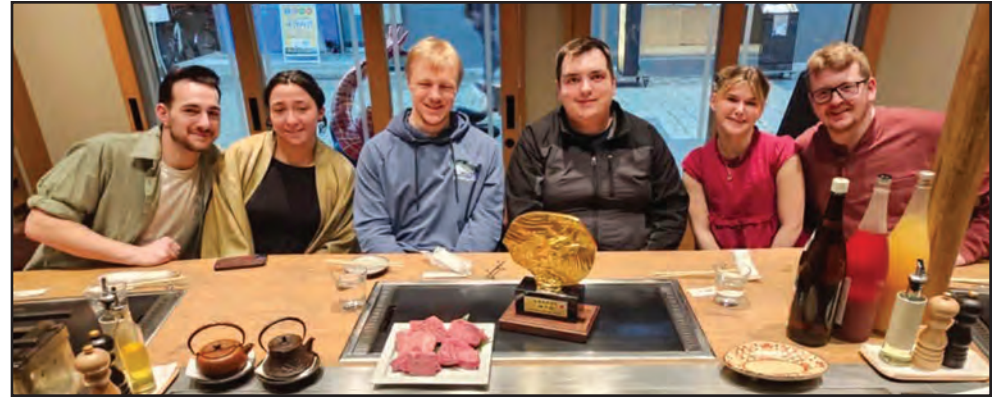
air and exercise when we were taken to an empty concrete room with a barred roof.

• **Did you have cell mates?** I had 3 cell mates, only one spoke extremely limited English. We were able to have a pencil and paper, with that and the limited English combined with hand gestures we were able to communicate enough to learn each other's stories. We also taught each other a little bit of each other's language.

• **Were you bored?** Between having cell mates to talk with and books I was able to stay occupied. I was grateful the guards let me keep my own Bible to read.

• **Where did the contraband, 9MM bullet, come from?** I was going target shooting and had seen the bullet sitting on a shelf and stuck it in the little pocket of the bag and forgot I had put it there.

• **Did you know when you would be released?** No, I didn't know until the moment



they said I was free to go.

• **How did you feel when you were released?** Extremely relieved and so grateful to all that prayed for me. I truly believe God protected me. I am also grateful to live in a country where a single bullet would have just

been confiscated.

• **Would you go back to Japan?** Yes, I very much enjoyed touring Japan, it is a physically beautiful country full of memorizing tradition and history.

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A Quilt of Valor

(continued from page 1)

Every operation is different, but generally the quilters make the quilt tops at home, and when they are done with the quilt tops, the ladies get together to do the actual quilting.

They seek out a space to set up the quilt rack, and the assembly begins. All the quilts I've ever seen being given were the traditional red, white and blue colors of our American flag. The southeast chapter of Quilts of Valor in our area have gifted hundreds of quilts all over the country since this project was started in 2018! The ladies in our community who worked on the quilt presented to Bev were her sisters, all avid quilters, Wanda Frieler, Vicki Arvidson and Cindy Rostamo.

The ceremony begins with a pledge of allegiance and a prayer. As the honored guest is told why they are receiving the quilt, another person wraps the quilt around the shoulders of the person being gifted. It is like being given a hug, and to say thank you for your service, sacrifice and valor in your service to our country. After the ceremony, cake was served, and people could mingle and congratulate Beverly on being honored. I was able to attend one ceremony a few years ago, and the emotions that came from all in attendance was incredible. You could feel the pride of the families who had their family members being

honored, and the gratitude of the honorees.

This event, sponsored by the Wanamingo Honor Guard, was held at the Wanamingo Quamme Post 186 meeting. Beverly said, "The service is like a family. I've made so many good friends over the years, and had the opportunity to experience different countries."

"Beverly has had some amazing experiences," said Wanda Frieler. "She has been to Korea and Germany, and even met Bob Hope when she was a part of his VIP escort team overseas. We are so proud of her."

One of the duties she volunteers for is driving veterans to the Minneapolis VA Center. "I can't think of a better honor for such a dedicated veteran and volunteer," says Gary Floan. "Bev's commitment to serve has been vital to so many veterans in our country. A well deserved honor for 20 years of service, and the time she has dedicated to volunteering. She has continued to support area veterans and the VFW. We greatly appreciate her service and dedication."

"Bev is committed to volunteering her free time to honor those who have served. I am thankful for her dedication and willingness to learn the etiquette we strongly uphold at the graveside and other public functions. We couldn't ask for more," said Eric Dierks, the Wanamingo Veteran Honor Guard Commander.

We at the Messenger would like to add our congratulations and thanks to Beverly for all she has done and continues to do for our military. If you know of someone you feel should be gifted for their time in service to our country, you may nominate them by getting ahold of someone in the Honor Guard to find out who the members of the committee



are, and submit your request. Or you can go online to www.qovf.org, or www.quilt-softhonor.org. Let someone you know who

has been touched by war be recognized in this special way for their service. You'll be glad you did!



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Contact: laura.RNfoundation@gmail.com

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News

Rep. Keith Allen

DISTRICT 19A



Dear friends and neighbors,

I hope you were able to dig your way out of the massive snowdrifts that came from last weekend's storm. I'm sure you were as shocked as I was to open up the front door on Sunday morning to a foot and a half of snow and a snowdrift 3/4 of the way up the front door. Anyways, back in St. Paul I have very exciting news to share about an important piece of legislation that I have been working on this session.

Ready to Pass HF3436

After a lot of hard work, committee hearings, and conversations across the aisle, HF3436 will be up for a vote on the House floor on Monday. This is an extremely important bill that closes a loophole in current law which puts children in danger everyday when they get on and off the school bus.

As the law is now, vehicles on the road must stop for school buses when the stop arm at the front of the bus is fully extended. Even though the red lights begin flashing and the stop sign goes out prior to the stop arm fully extending, drivers are not legally required to stop until that stop arm is all the way out.

My bill, HF3436, closes this loophole by changing the law to be that vehicles must stop for the school bus as soon as the red lights begin flashing. This is a step in the right direction for school safety and giving our kids the opportunity to make it to and from school with adequate protections from reckless drivers.

I am very thankful for the work that we put in behind the scenes, from my local sheriff making me aware of the issue, conversations with legislators, and getting the bill through the committee process. As it stands, this bill will be the first bill that makes it to the Governor's desk this session, as it has cleared the Senate already. I am honored to have been able to carry this bill and make a positive change to protect our students. I am excited to get this bill passed off the floor on Monday!

Pancake Feed

Check out the next Pancake Breakfast at the Rice County 4H Building on Sunday, April 12th!

Basketball

Best of luck to the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton boy's basketball team as they advance to the state tournament this week!

And finally, shoutout to the following wrestlers for advancing to the state wrestling tournament recently:

JWP: Kayle Langford, Trenton Huber, Brady Murphy, Aiden Gruber, and Kavan Sheehy
Kenyon Wanamingo: Liam Sommer (Champion), Ryan Lacanne, Bryan Jacobson (3rd place), Luke Johnson, Brennan Flotterud, and Myles Thompson

Please Contact Me

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Thank you!





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