



Waunakee Rotary Club

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Not all Americans are fat, fast-eating rednecks.

So Hanoulia Salame, the Waunakee Rotary Club's exchange student from Belgium, discovered during her stay here.

Hanoulia shared a little bit about Belgium before giving highlights of her year in Waunakee. She comes from Soigne, a small city about the size of Waunakee. Belgium has the best beer, chocolate and waffles, she told the club.

She's enjoyed the three families she's stayed with in Waunakee, and when she first saw Harriet Statz's smile, she knew it was going to be a great year.

Hanoulia said when she anticipated her year in Waunakee, she was afraid she would gain weight. So she joined girls' volleyball, a sport she enjoys at home.

"After one week, it was not possible to move my body any more," she said. "I thought I was good – not for Americans."

Hanoulia showed slides of the places she's traveled and the beautiful landscapes at areas like Devil's Lake. She also visited New York City, Disney World, Six Flags and her favorite, Hawaii.

Hanoulia said the first day of high school was very difficult. She knew no one, and it was hard to make friends. Finally one student, Patricia, who is from Puerto Rico, introduced herself, and now she plans to visit Hanoulia in Belgium.

One of the highlights was meeting other Rotary exchange students who were also far from their homelands, Hanoulia said.

"It's so important to talk to someone who knows how you feel," she said.

Hanoulia said in Belgium, there is no formal high school graduation ceremony, so she thought the traditional cap and big gown was strange. She

wanted to wear a belt with that big robe, she said.

Hanoulia gave a speech at Waunakee's High School graduation before about 2,000 audience members and said she was very nervous, but her sense of humor was contagious.

"They were just laughing. They loved it. I think this is going to be my favorite memory," she said.

Some of the most difficult things here were the cold winter and trying not to shop. She's also tired of hamburgers.

"Whoa, meat, meat, meat – I don't do that every day," she said.

Hanoulia said when she returns home, she hopes to work with other outbound Rotary exchange students to give them an idea of what to expect.

She also plans to attend college, and her interests are art and English language.

You can send off Hanoulia at her going away party Sunday at the potluck at Roxanne Johnson's house. Just RSVP to Lori Derauf. Information can be found on the club's Facebook page.

Other items:

- Bill Erickson said although each year the club picks up school supplies and ships them to Honduras, he needs more help than ever this time. Little Treasures Preschool has closed and donated all of the supplies to the club to ship. So there is two to three times the supplies we normally get from Prairie Elementary School to send. Volunteers are needed June 14 to help sort these at Bill's house. There will be two shifts, at 3:30 and at 6:30 p.m.

- Harriet Statz said she attended a Rotary meeting in Bloomington, Ind. It wasn't half as much fun as our meetings, she said.

- Rich Murphy said maps will be available to Danny Paul's house for

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Calendar of Events:

- June 12, Hanoulia's farewell party, 4-7 p.m.
- June 14, School Supply packing at Bill Erickson's, 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- June 16, Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing.
- June 23, Steak Fry at Rex's Innkeeper.
- July 12, Pontoon Boat Ride on Lake Wisconsin.
- July 28-31, WaunaFest.

folks who are going on the later shift of the pontoon ride.

- President Brent Ziegler invited all to come for the unofficial change of the guard at the steak fry June 23. There will be a sign-up sheet next week.

Guests: Breanna Buroker, guest of Jonny Buroker.

Birthdays: June 18, Dan Statz; June 20, David May; June 22, Jim Ableidinger.

Anniversaries: None.

Prayers: June 16, Leonard Allen; June 23, Susan Vergeront; June 30, Pat Durden;

Programs: June 16, Becky Ohan classification talk; June 23, Rob Grede, author of the Civil War drama, "The Spur and The Sash." Mr. Grede will donate a portion of book sales to Polio Plus.

Greeters: June 16, Betsy Flanagan and Greg Garton; June 23, Paul Gilbertson and Richard Harris.