

YOU'VE BEEN SPOTTED

# Semper Fi Barn welcomes dozens of Memorial Day visitors

The Journal staff

CENTRAL — More than 50 people passed through the Semper Fi Barn in Central to pause for reflection on Memorial Day.

CEO and founder Tom von Kaenel opened the place of respite for veterans, where they can relax and stay at the barn for up to three days at no charge, in March.

"We've opened up the barn for everybody," he said, calling Memorial Day the "most sacred secular holiday of the year."



*Semper Fi Barn founder and CEO Tom von Kaenel salutes during the playing of taps Monday in honor of Memorial Day, which he called "the most sacred secular holiday of the year."*

*Caleb Gilbert | The Journal*

The public hung up dog tags from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday. A cookout and closing ceremony with music capped the day, which included a visit from South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs director of operations David Rozelle.

"It's as amazing as I expected it to be," Rozelle said of the barn. "Tom is a perfectionist."

Rozelle, who served 27 years in the U.S. Army and was injured in the Iraq invasion, did tours as an amputee. His job for the state is to, among other things, connect veterans with needed resources.

Veterans of the Korean, Vietnam, Cold, Gulf and Afghanistan wars made it to Central on Monday, von Kaenel said. The next event at the barn is scheduled for June 12, which is Women Veterans Day.

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864-882-2375

210 W North 1st St, Seneca SC

PHOTOS BY LAUREN PIERCE | THE JOURNAL  
West Post 6830 member  
front of a replica of the  
Courthouse during a  
halla on Monday.

# Heroes'

## ns Council Day service

BY LAUREN PIERCE  
THE JOURNAL  
HALLA — Locals  
up Monday for  
Memorial Day  
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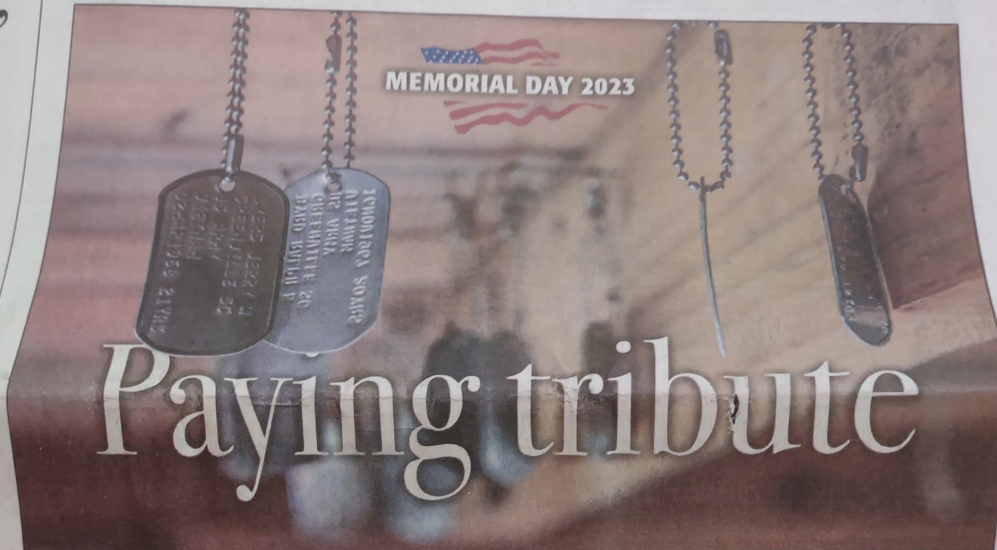
election is in the hands of  
the voters.  
Registered voters who  
live in Seneca city limits  
will go to the polls at Seneca  
Middle School today  
to cast a ballot from 7  
a.m.-7 p.m.

Nicholson Peppers Riley Sites Taylor

Voters will choose  
one person to fill the  
unexpired term of the  
late Al Gaines, who was  
once principal at Seneca

Middle and served nearly  
30 years on city council  
before his death in late  
February.  
City elections in all

event at Shaver.  
Kyle Nicholson, Donna  
Peppers, Ernest "E."  
Riley, Jim Sites and  
Delanio Taylor are the  
candidates on the ballot.  
"We will have some  
SEE ELECTION, PAGE A5



PHOTOS BY CALEB GILBERT | THE JOURNAL

Visitors hung dog tags in honor of military veterans as part of a Memorial Day observation Monday at the Semper Fi Barn in Central.

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THE JOURNAL STAFF

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**WANT TO GO?**  
Interested in visiting the Semper Fi Barn  
in Central? Email founder Tom von  
Kaenel at [semperfibarn@gmail.com](mailto:semperfibarn@gmail.com).

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The public hung up dog tags

SEE TRIBUTE, PAGE A5



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Phillip Smith works the grill at Semper Fi Barn's Memorial Day ceremony  
on Monday.